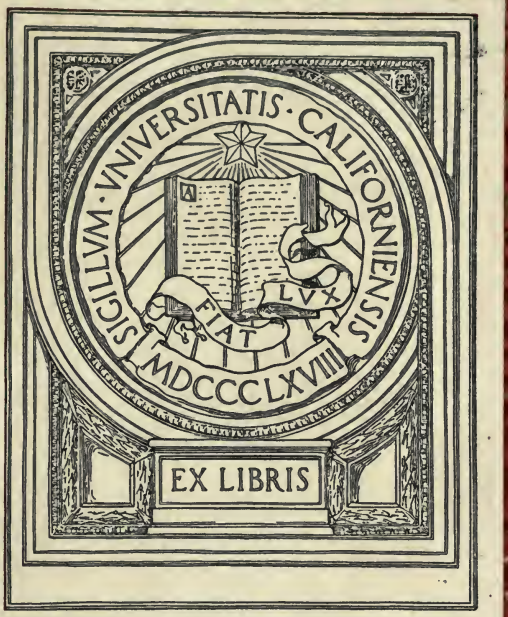
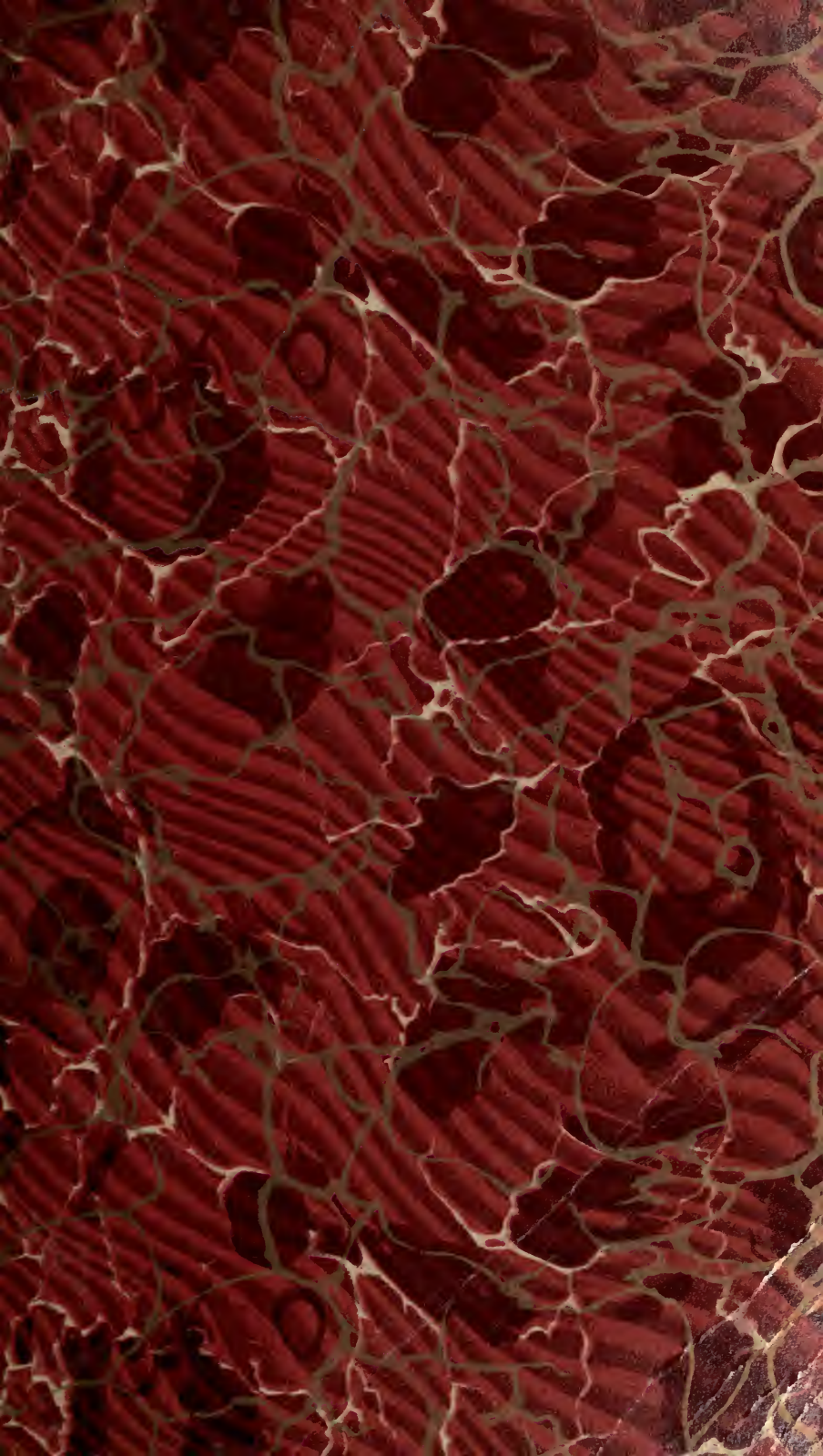


BANCROFT LIBRARY



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2008 with funding from
Microsoft Corporation

http://www.archive.org/details/travelsinscotlan00neckrich

TRAVELS

IN

SCOTLAND;

DESCRIPTIVE

OF THE STATE OF MANNERS, LITERATURE,

AND SCIENCE.

By L. A. NECKER DE SAUSSURE,

HONORARY PROFESSOR OF MINERALOGY AND GEOLOGY IN THE ACADEMY OF GENEVA, MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF PHYSIC AND NATURAL HISTORY OF GENEVA, HONORARY MEMBER OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, AND OF THE WERNERIAN SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH, &c.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

LONDON.

PRINTED FOR SIR RICHARD PHILLIPS AND Co.

BRIDE COURT, BRIDGE STREET.

1821.

INTRODUCTION.

Various circumstances have retarded the publication of these Travels.

The study of manners, considered under a general point of view, in their relation with the Ancient Constitution, with the nature even of Scotland, have been the subjects which have more particularly captivated my attention in this interesting country. My long residence, the inappreciable happiness which I enjoyed of living in the society of distinguished men, who honoured me with their friendship, and aided me with their counsels; in fine, the knowledge of the various dialects in use in the British Isles,—all these have placed me in a favourable position to observe with advantage.

Although divers travellers have given the relation of their rapid journeys in Scotland, this Country is still very imperfectly known. This circumstance alone induced me to endeavour to give just ideas of a part of the globe which presents objects of all kinds proper to excite the curiosity of the public.

It was almost impossible to live in Scotland, without observing that nature presents a peculiar character, owing to the geographical situation of the country. Placed in a high latitude, Scot-

land displays to the observer, the astronomical phenomena of northern regions, the extreme length of days towards the solstice of summer, and their corresponding brevity towards the solstice of winter; this country is, also, within the limits where the animals proper for boreal regions begin to appear. The great cetaceous animals, and the multitude of different species of sea-birds which people the latitudes of Iceland, Spitzbergen, and Greenland, already abound in the Scottish Seas and neighbouring isles. But the climate is far from possessing the rigour of high latitudes; an insular position in the Atlantic tempers and lessens the hoar frosts of winter, and, in some degree, balances the effect of the proximity of the pole. Thus the plains of Scotland are more fertile, and are covered with more southerly plants, than those of many countries situated in the same latitude on the Continent of Europe. Great humidity, and abundant rains, replace in Scotland the hoar frosts, and supply the numerous springs, brooks, rivers, and lakes, as well in the mountains as in the plains.

These various circumstances lend an original physiognomy to the nature of these regions, of which I have endeavoured to give an idea. The habitations of men, the ancient and modern monuments, the agricultural labours which have rendered the plains fertile, animated, and cheerful, have produced a striking contrast between the richness of the flat country, and the gloomy and wild aspect of the mountains, and those vast districts, thick set with rocks, and covered with heath, which seem abandoned by nature to eternal sterility. There, no tree raises its head;—no building, no monument, except here and there some huge blocks of stone, formerly erected by the Druids, discloses the power of man. Mean villages, scattered at great distances in the middle of deserts, with unformed huts, like those of the Laplanders, are the retreats of the still semi-barbarian inhabitants of these countries; whilst the Scots of the plains, proud of an ancient civilization, show to foreigners their flourishing and populous cities, their sea-ports animated by the most active commerce,

their luxuriant fields, their manufactures carried to the highest point of perfection, and their celebrated Universities, which produced those literary and scientific characters, those profound geniuses, and eloquent legislators, who have given to Scotland that literary renown which it this day enjoys in the estimation of all Europe.

However different may be the nature of the two regions known under the names of the High and the Low-lands of Scotland, it was not in their nature alone that the cause was to be found of the little resemblance which exists between their respective inhabitants. With regard to the latter phenomenon, so striking to every foreigner, history assists us in comprehending why the mountains are occupied by a warlike race, but impatient of labour; poetic, yet ignorant; whilst an enlightened and industrious people inhabit the Low-lands.

History informs us, that the Gaëls fixed, from time immemorial, in the northern part of Great Britain, (expelled from the plains of the south of Scotland, first by the Romans, afterwards by the people of Teutonic origin,) took refuge in the almost inaccessible mountains, and maintained themselves there until the middle of the last century, sheltered not only from all invasion of foreign enemies, but even from all mixture with the other nations of Europe, and that they had preserved, until that epoch, the language, habits, manners, and even the form of government of the Celtic people, from whom they originated.

The inhabitants of the plains, on the contrary, descended from those conquerors of the north, who, at different periods, invaded the fertile regions of the south of Scotland, have cultivated the arts, sciences, and letters. Governed by princes of their own nation, they formed, for a long period, an independent kingdom, of which the Gaëls made a part, rather as allies, it is true, than as subjects. A representative government, (which was strangely associated with the feudal system then in vigour,) a parliament, extensive franchises accorded by the kings to villages and numerous burghs, were the germs of a spirit of liberty which de-

veloped itself at different epochs; and that spirit, favoured by the religious Reformation, created institutions, the happy effects of which are still felt in our day, and of which Scotland has reaped the fruits, even after having lost its political individuality by an union with England, its ancient rival.

These are the objects which I proposed to examine. I have not stopped to signalize customs of little importance in themselves, nor usages arising from the habits, and kind of domestic life of the Scots. These trifling peculiarities, which are only isolated facts, and which do not belong to the true national character, have appeared to me of little interest, compared with an inquiry into the influence which the climate, the historical events, and the form of government have exercised over the moral and intellectual faculties of individuals, on industry and general prosperity; in fine, on the language and the arts; objects, the history of which is evidently connected with that of the people.

In contemplating the astonishing progress which the Scots have made in the course of the last century, an interesting question presented itself: has the definitive union of Scotland and England been the cause of this progress, as several authors have pretended? at least what influence has it had on the civilization of the inhabitants of the Lowlands? I have not endeavoured to solve completely so complicated a problem, but to present some reflections, which seem to me to indicate, that we must seek elsewhere than in the Act which deprived Scotland of its independence, for the cause of the prodigious developement of talent, learning, and industry, which is at present so much admired in that country.

In order to place this question in a true light, I have been obliged to combat the unfavourable opinions so long prevalent in England against the inhabitants of the north, to ascertain the causes of such prejudices.

Even while this hereditary injustice is much less marked in our day, it fails not to surprize those who have observed, with attention, the peculiar character of both people, still so widely different

from each other. It was necessary to compare them in some important points, and I have not done so without repugnance; comparisons between two nations are delicate subjects, and difficult for a foreigner. But the very quality of a foreigner is, in some measure, a guarantee of greater impartiality in judgment; thus, I have not permitted any hazardous assertions, and I have been careful of supporting, by well-known facts, the opinions which a residence of two years in Scotland, and one year in England, has impressed on my mind.

No one admires more than myself the noble loyalty, the patriotism, the generous sentiments which characterize the English nation; no one feels more lively, the merit of that constitution, which, assuring to the people the benefits of a wise liberty, has created numerous institutions, destined to form the happiness and the glory of all classes, and to diffuse throughout the whole social fabric, a life, and a moral movement which renders the English so justly proud of their country and their name.

Animated by such sentiments, which I always feel pleasure in professing, having enjoyed at the most critical period of the war, that generous hospitality which the English nation has never refused, even to its enemies; citizen, in fine, of a Republic which owes its regeneration, and the return of its liberty and happiness, to the successful resistance of the English, it is not to be believed that I could ever have the intention to asperse a people, to whom the most illustrious writers, among whom I delight to mention Madame de Staël, have nobly rendered the most brilliant testimonies of esteem and admiration.

The love of truth, and the desire of seeing the Scots occupy that place in public opinion which is so eminently due to them, have sólely directed me. I do not believe, that in this respect I shall be accused of inconsiderate partiality, or prejudices conceived in advance.

Entirely a stranger to Scotland, when I arrived there I was imbued with some of the ideas in vogue among the English, and I partook of their prejudices; but a more profound knowledge of

the nation, and extended relations into the different classes of society, have rectified my early impressions, and convinced me of the little foundation for those reproaches which, at this day, the English still continue to address to their brethren of the North.

At a period when every thing connected with public education occupied the minds of all, it occurred to me that some details on the University of Edinburgh, on the distinguished Professors who attract such numbers of strangers to that classic ground, (and who, for the greater part, still occupy the same chairs at the present moment,) on the mode of instruction practised there, and on the resources of all kinds which are afforded to the students of this school, so worthy of the universal celebrity which it enjoys;—I have thought, I say, that such details claimed every attention, and would not be without their utility.

I have also endeavoured to give some idea of the society of Edinburgh; a society remarkable for the perfect ease, the cordiality, and the true amiableness which reign among its members. At the head of the Society of Edinburgh are conspicuous, at this day, the learned Professors, distinguished literati and poets, who were the ornaments of it when I had the happiness to be admitted.

We shall find that either for its Institutions, or the manner of life of its inhabitants, Edinburgh is not unworthy of the titles of *the Athens of the North*, and *the Capital of Mind*, which many modern authors have bestowed upon it.

TRAVELS

IN

SCOTLAND.

CHAPTER I.

General Description of Edinburgh—Old Town—Holyrood Palace —Castle—Parliament House—College—Professors, and other Learned Men.

It is not only as being the capital of the ancient kingdom of Scotland, and formerly the residence of its sovereigns and their brilliant court, that the city of Edinburgh attracts the attention of the traveller. Its remarkable situation and picturesque aspect, the continually increasing splendour of its University, which has acquired a well-merited fame throughout Europe, render Edinburgh still more interesting in the eyes of foreigners.

This city is commanded by the summit of a hill, which occupies a mile in circumference, in the direction of from east to west, and is terminated on one side by a perpendicular rock, on which is built an ancient castle of great strength; and on the other, by the Calton Hill, where an Observatory is erected. A declivity of a mile and a half, covered with luxuriant verdure, gardens and beautiful country seats, separates the city from a fine gulf of the German sea, known by the name of the Firth of Forth; whilst, on the opposite side, the hill called Arthur's Seat, of a conical shape, and the steep rocks of Salisbury Craigs, at the foot of which a part of the city is situated, confine the horizon. It may easily be conceived, that a city thus situated by the side of picturesque hills, at a little distance from a gulf, interspersed with islands, must present remarkable points of view from every part.

Under the name of Edinburgh is comprised two cities, very different from each other, distinguished by the denominations of the Old and the New Town. The first, dull, ill built, and con-

sisting for the most part of very irregular houses, is the ancient capital of Scotland. The other, which has been erected by the northern side of the Old Town within the last fifty years, is daily augmenting in grandeur and magnificence ; and already, by its regularity and beauty, it may pass for one of the finest in Europe.

These two towns, which are only separated, the one from the other, by a narrow loch or valley, differ as much with respect to their inhabitants as in their general aspect. The Old Town is the city of study and of business ; where all the establishments for public instruction are situated, as well as the warehouses and shops of every description ; it is also here where the merchants, tradesmen, and the greatest part of the students of the University reside. The New Town is the city of amusement, luxury, and elegance ; it contains the Theatre, and handsome edifices devoted to music and dancing. It is also the residence of the Scottish nobility and gentry, when they quit their estates for the winter, to enjoy the pleasures of more extended society in the capital.

With the exception of one or two streets, which appear to have been newly constructed, or rather repaired, the old town possesses only winding, narrow, dark streets, consisting of houses so high, that they appear to be lost in the clouds ; there are some buildings in which I have counted as many as ten or twelve stories. The narrow streets, known under the names of Close or Wynd, of which nearly the whole of the Old Town is composed, were formerly remarkable for their dirtiness and unwholesome nature ; but, at present, the greatest care is taken by the police, to preserve cleanliness in the streets of Edinburgh.

The North and South Bridge streets are ornamented by handsome shops of every description ; these streets, animated by a continual passage of carriages, are furnished on each side by wide footpavements, on which circulate the active and constantly moving crowd. It is chiefly in the forenoon that the scene is most lively. At that time, students are seen returning home in numerous groups from the college, analysing, during their way, the learned instructions which they had just been receiving. Then, also, the fashionable world arrive from the New Town, to inspect the warehouses of the *Marchande de Modes*, the silk-mercer, and the elegant wares of the jeweller, rather for the purpose of complying with the laws of fashion, than of making any considerable purchases. The merchants, who are forward to oblige in proportion to the elevated rank of their customers, eagerly turn over their goods, and display their rich stuffs and precious jewellery, happy if the ladies, who occupy a great part of the morning in admiring these fine productions of the arts, reward them

for all their trouble, in purchasing a modest ribbon, or other article of *equal value.* This amusement, much more general in Great Britain than on the Continent, is called *Shopping.*

One of the most remarkable edifices of the Old Town is the palace of Holyrood, the ancient residence of the kings of Scotland. It is situated in the eastern part of the city, at the foot of Salisbury Craigs, and is a quadrangular building, the architecture being a little heavy. A large gate, surmounted by the arms of Scotland, and flanked by four high towers, gives a picturesque effect on entering. The two northern towers form the most ancient portion of this edifice, and are the only remains of the ancient palace; which, after having been almost entirely consumed by fire under the *regime* of Cromwell, was rebuilt in its present state by Charles II. The interior contains elegant apartments, occasionally occupied by the Duke of Hamilton, who holds the office of Keeper of Holyrood palace.

A long gallery is shown, decorated with portraits of all the sovereigns of this country, from Fergus I. down to James VI. It must not be believed that all these portraits are exact resemblances of the kings whom they are intended to represent. It is known that the most ancient have been painted from imagination, at an epoch sufficiently modern. In this gallery the peers of the kingdom of Scotland assemble to choose sixteen of their number, to represent the Scottish nobility in the British Parliament. This ceremony, which takes place every seven years, attracts a great concourse of spectators of both sexes; and the days preceding and following the election are celebrated by brilliant fêtes.

The most remarkable portion of this palace is that which has resisted the ravages of the flames. It is in these two ancient towers where are shown the apartments of Queen Mary Stuart, preserved in the same state in which they were when that unfortunate princess quitted them to return no more. They are ornamented with antique tapestry; the beds, of a gothic form, are covered with embroidered silk hangings, which have been very handsome; several portraits are also exhibited; among others, that of Henry VIII. King of England. A portrait, in miniature, of Queen Mary, is enclosed in an ebony toilette, which belonged to her; it gives the most perfect idea of that striking beauty, which became the source of her misfortunes, and exposed her to the persecutions of her more powerful rival.

On entering this apartment one is seized with an insurmountable sadness. Every thing transports you back to the period when so lovely, so sensible, and so lively a princess, whose memory is still so dear to the Scots, inhabited this palace, where she gave herself up to the study of the fine arts and of poetry. It was in this same apartment that David Rizzio was assassinated

under the eyes of Mary. It is well known that this Italian, the son of a musician of Turin, arriving in Scotland in the suite of the ambassador of Savoy, knew so well by his talents how to gain the affection of the Queen, that he became her favorite, and almost her prime minister. They show the chamber where he supped with the Queen and the Countess of Argyle, when the King, who thirsted for his blood, suddenly entered into the room by a private staircase, followed by Lords Morton and Ruthven, and some trusty friends, armed from head to foot. The dark and narrow staircase still exists, and the door which leads to it from the interior of the apartment, is in great part concealed by the ancient tapestry. The small anti-chamber is also to be seen where Rizzio was dragged by the assassins after having vainly sought to put himself under the protection of the queen, by taking refuge in her arms.

Since the union of the crowns of England and Scotland, Holyrood-House, without ceasing to be a royal palace, has no longer been the residence of the Sovereign. Towards the end of the year 1745, when Prince Charles Stuart, known by the name of the Pretender, at the head of his small army of brave Highlanders, had defeated the English troops at Preston-pans, he stopped some weeks at Edinburgh. Holyrood House became once more, during this short space of time, the residence of a court, without eclât, but not without interest. It was from this place that the prince caused his father to be proclaimed with pomp, " James III., King of Great Britain." It was here also that prince Charles appeared surrounded by his great vassals and principal chiefs of the Scottish clans, again attired in the ancient and picturesque costume of their forefathers, and displaying the wild and warlike pomp of a considerable suite of inferior vassals, armed in the cause of their ancient sovereigns. This prince, whose courage and enterprising genius rendered him worthy of a better fate, seated for a moment on the splendid throne of his ancestors, dreamed, in this palace, of happiness which he could never attain. Holyrood has seen, still more recently, a prince of an illustrious and persecuted house, find an asylum under its walls, which he had sought for in vain in the other countries of Europe.

By the side of the palace are to be seen the gothic ruins of the ancient abbey of Holy Cross, founded in 1128, by king David I. Holyrood palace has been built on the site of the convent, and the church was preserved, in order to serve as a royal chapel. There the knights of the order of Chardon assembled, in former times, under the presidency of the king, for whom they had elevated a throne at one of the extremities of the church. The disciples of John Knox, the reformer of Scotland, in their in-

considerate zeal, demolished a great part of this church, believing they would succeed more promptly in overturning the catholic worship, if they destroyed all the religious edifices in which it had been celebrated.

The quarter which surrounds Holyrood house, one of the dirtiest in Edinburgh, is occupied solely by the lower classes of people. It was nevertheless, a century ago, the most elegant quarter of the city. The principal nobility inhabited houses, which, at this day, would be despised by the poorest mechanics.

This part of the city is an asylum for insolvent debtors; here justice has no power over them, and they are perfectly free; they have even a vast park for their promenade, named St. Anne's Yard, adjoining the palace. These privileges are still the remains of that respect for royalty, which causes the palace of a sovereign to be regarded as a sanctuary which no one dares to violate, and under the shade of which, those who are pursued and persecuted seek for shelter.

In the western part of the Old Town, viz. on the side opposite to the Palace of Holyrood, stands another building, not less remarkable for the historical recollections which it calls forth. It is an ancient fortress, constructed on a perpendicular rock to protect the city, which it commands from every part.

This little fort is built on the summit of a rock of black basalt, 300 feet in height; nearly perpendicular, and every where inaccessible, except from the east. We arrive at it by ascending a gentle declivity, formed by the ridge of the hill on which the Old Town is situated. From whatever part we regard the castle, it presents an imposing and picturesque point of view. Already so well defended by nature, it has been equally protected by art. Every where it is surrounded by walls, even in the places where the rock is so steep that it appears useless to have had recourse to artificial fortifications. The only accessible part is defended by palisades, by a deep ditch over which is thrown a draw-bridge, and by cross batteries. However, although sufficiently strong to resist a sudden attack, it could not sustain a regular siege in the present state of military art, commanded as it is by the hills of Salisbury Craigs, and Arthur's Seat; also, the buildings of which it is composed being unable to resist the fire of artillery. But it might be very useful to protect the city in the case of popular tumult, or to oppose an attack of rebel peasantry. It is natural to suppose, that this position would have been in ancient times occupied by a fortress. Thus we find that the castle already existed in the fifth century, and even at an epoch still more remote, when the Picts alone inhabited this part of the island. Falling into the hands of the Anglo-Saxons, it became, and continued for a length of time, nearly impregnable. It

changed, however, sometimes its masters, and in the frequent wars between Scotland and England, it was occupied alternately, by troops of both powers; but it was very rarely that they succeeded in taking it by force. More frequently it was ceded by treaties, or taken by surprise, and by the stratagems of war employed with so much success in the middle ages. They show still, in the castle, the chamber where Queen Mary brought into the world James VI., better known as James I. of England. That son, twice crowned, who was of so little service to his unfortunate mother, when his interference might have saved her from an unmerited and cruel death.

When the Regent Murray, at the head of the Scottish and English rebels, seized upon Edinburgh, he was for a long time arrested in his progress by the brave Sir William Kirkaldy, who defended the interests of the Queen, by inclosing himself and troops in the castle. After a siege of thirty-three days, and when all the buildings and walls were demolished, Kirkaldy, who would have preferred burying himself in the ruins of the citadel, was forced, by a revolt in the garrison, to capitulate. The English general, instead of executing the treaty, which insured to Kirkaldy his life, and the honours of war, delivered him up to the Regent, who caused him to be dragged to the scaffold.

During the whole period of the rebellion in 1745, in favour of the Stuarts, General Guest held the castle of Edinburgh in the name of King George. Prince Charles Edward, although master of the city, could not establish a regular siege, not having sufficient troops; and, besides, being totally destitute of heavy artillery.

In the street which conducts to the castle is a grand reservoir of water, destined to supply the city. The water is brought thither by the aid of subterraneous canals, from the high Pentland Hills, situated about three miles to the south of Edinburgh. From thence it is distributed by leaden pipes, into every house, both in the Old and New Town.

The edifice, called the Parliament House, situated in the heart of the city, is remarkable for its fine gothic architecture. It was there that, formerly, the parliament of Scotland assembled; since the union it has been occupied by the Tribunals, and the High Court of Justice, known under the name of the *Court of Session.* We admire, at the entrance of this building, an equestrian statue in bronze, of King Charles II.; and, in the interior of the edifice, a vast gallery, 122 feet in length, by 49 in breadth, the roof of which is composed of timber of excellent workmanship. The most interesting part of this building is the Advocate's Library, which includes an immense collection of rare works, valuable manuscripts, and engravings.

I shall not stop to speak of the churches; there are many in

the Old Town, but none of them merit any attention for their architecture. St. Giles's Cathedral is a very large Gothic building, but very heavy—and the steeple, in form of an imperial crown, renders it still heavier. The Cowgate Chapel, destined for the English form of worship, is very simple, but in good taste; above the altar is remarked a picture of Runciman, the best, or almost the only painter of note in Scotland. This church is the only one in the Old Town where organs are used: the severity of the national religion, the austere Calvinism of Presbyterians, having proscribed every musical instrument in their temples.

Edinburgh possesses numerous establishments of charity; the greater part do not yield to the first cities in Europe, for the elegance of their architecture, and the attention which is bestowed upon the unfortunate beings to whom they are consecrated; as well as for the order and management of the interior. They are nearly all of them private endowments, and most of them bear the name of the founder. Such are the hospitals of Watson, Gillespie, and Heriot. This last was built about the middle of the 17th century, by a Scotsman, named Heriot, jeweller to Queen Anne of Denmark, in favour of the orphan sons of burgesses in Edinburgh. It is a very fine gothic building, and its exterior appearance is more like that of a palace than an hospital.

Before quitting the Old Town, it remains for me to speak of the College, and the other establishments for public instruction, which, for a long succession of years, have shed a lustre on the city of Edinburgh, and, far from diminishing, seem daily to increase. The celebrated University has not ceased for a long period, to reckon within its walls, professors of the highest merit, in every branch of human knowledge, and many who have left this school as students, have since occupied the chairs with distinction;—situations the more difficult to fill, as they had been rendered illustrious by the brilliant reputation of the former professors. The constantly increasing number of students, who come not only from the remotest provinces of Scotland, England, and Ireland, but even from the other countries of Europe, English America, and also from the East and West Indies, proves the flourishing state of this University. The number, in 1807 and 1808, amounted to 1700, although, at that period, all communication with the Continent was interrupted.

The preliminary education is obtained in the High School, where they prepare children to follow more profound studies, by teaching them the principles of the Latin and Greek languages. This preparatory school is directed by four Masters and a Rector, appointed and paid by the Town Council, besides receiving an annual contribution from the scholars.*

* In the years 1812-13, the Lancasterian method was adopted in the High

The College, which is, to speak correctly, the University, was founded in 1581, under the reign of James VI., by the magistrates of the city; this monarch, having granted it many privileges, and having desired that the college should bear his name, it was called, and is still, at this day, the college of James VI. It had only been established, in its origin, for instruction in philosophy, but soon after they joined to it that of theology, mathematics, and law; it was not until the middle of the last century that the chairs of medicine were founded, and that the principles of that science were regularly taught. The greater part of the chairs are paid by the Town Council, the others are paid by the government. There is only one which has a private endowment, viz. the chair of agriculture, created within these few years by Lady Bath; from the time that this science has been generally studied, and that it begins to repose on a fixed basis, it is interesting to find, that the general and particular principles of so important a branch of human knowledge, should be thus publicly taught. It is much to be desired that every university, or academy might, in like manner, possess a chair of agriculture.

The progressive extension which the University of Edinburgh has taken since its institution, and the great increase in the number of students, have, of necessity, caused a change in the site destined for the various classes. For nearly twenty years, the magistrates of Edinburgh felt that the ancient buildings of the college were too small, and too shabby. They proposed a subscription for the purpose of erecting a vast edifice, which by its grandeur, and beautiful architecture, would be worthy the city of Edinburgh, and the reputation of its professors. The subscriptions amounted in a little time to thirty-eight thousand pounds sterling, and the first stone of the new college was laid in 1789, with great ceremony. Already a magnificent building began to rear its head, a noble *façade*, ornamented by a peristyle of the Doric order, formed the entry of the interior court, some vast and well-lighted halls, replaced a part of the dark and small apartments of the ancient college, and every thing promised the complete success of this enterprise, when, unfortunately, they perceived that the money subscribed was all expended, and that

School of Edinburgh, with the modifications necessary to the kind of instruction which is there practised. Mr. Pillans, the Rector of this school, aided by Mr. Gray, one of the Masters, has adopted this method in the study of Latin, Greek, and Geography. The experiments of these able masters, have been made with a perseverance and intelligence altogether individual, and the success which has attended them, has surpassed their hopes. The progress of the students has been rapid, the instruction has advanced and spread more generally, and with greater effect, than by the ancient method. The children have a taste for their studies, they rival each other in zeal, and the masters have only to fulfil a mild and agreeable task.

the half of the work remained yet to be done. It was nesessary, therefore, to suspend the works. From that moment they have not been recommenced, and the college presents at this day, the most ludicrous mixture of ancient and modern architecture; of magnificence and poverty.

It is to be regretted that the government or the city do not make some sacrifices in order to finish a work so well commenced, and the utility of which is so evident. It is fortunate at least that they have not demolished the ancient buildings, to construct the new college, but the greater part of the rooms of which they consist, are hardly sufficient to contain the number of students which arrive.*

The manner in which the studies are pursued in the University of Edinburgh, is not the same as in England, where the students residing in the colleges, under a particular discipline, form a body and wear a costume which distinguish them from the inhabitants. In Edinburgh, the students reside in the city, either in boarding-houses or furnished lodgings, and wear no particular costume; thus mixed with the various classes of citizens, it is not to be feared that they will act in a body, which in general is so hurtful to the progress of the students, and which, more than once, has disturbed the tranquillity of the Universities of Germany. Another advantage from these relations between the townsmen and the students is, that the latter are not apt to forget the practice of their social duties, and, at the same time that they pursue their own studies, they acquire that various information which in the end will make them good citizens, and useful members of society.—There are two classes of students to be distinguished in Edinburgh: the one, and the most numerous, is composed of young gentlemen who pursue their studies with the view of embracing one of those vocations, which require degrees, conferred by the University, such as Theology, Law, and Medicine, The other class comprises those who come to the College, without any intention of taking degrees, but for the purpose of finishing a liberal education, in profiting by lessons which possess a general interest.

Often the reputation of a professor induces many strangers, and particularly young Englishmen, to resort to Edinburgh. It was thus that they formerly came from a distance, to receive lessons in literature from the celebrated Dr. Blair, and in physic and chemistry from Dr. Black; and that the desire to hear the eloquent dissertations of the learned Professor of Philosophy, Mr.

* The building of the new college recommenced in 1816, and it is hoped that this time, this fine edifice will be entirely completed.

Dugald Stuart, attracted a considerable concourse of young gentlemen to Edinburgh.

It is not unusual to see at the classes of some professors, full grown, and even old men, who are not ashamed to seek for instruction in the midst of a College of young gentlemen. Their presence is a great encouragement for the students; the latter are accustomed, on seeing them, to consider their studies as an object of interest and enjoyment for manhood, rather than as painful and forced labours imposed on youth; and to regard their professor not as a severe pedagogue, occupied in keeping a crowd of untractable scholars to their duty, by remonstances and chastisement, but as a Philosopher, already initiated in the depths of science, surrounded by disciples, attentive and eager for instruction. Imbued with these sentiments, they listen with calmness and gravity, and instead of regarding the hour when the lecture finishes as the instant of their deliverance, they quit the class-room with regret, and converse among themselves on the topics which formed the subject of the lesson.

The whole system of public instruction in Edinburgh is founded on the above spirit. They only admit to the classes those of a certain age who are fit to conduct themselves properly, and to labour for their own advancement.

The professors have not taken upon themselves responsibility for the conduct and the assiduity of their pupils; in this respect they leave them at the most perfect liberty, provided that nothing disturbs the tranquillity of the lecture: but they know well how to give encouragement to those who show a desire to be instructed, either in frequently conversing with them on the subjects of their studies, or by directing them in their researches, and above all, in condescending at all times, and with the greatest complaisance, to give the explanations which are demanded, and to reply to the objections which may be made to them, in moments which are not destined to instruction. In consequence of this system, daily interrogatories on the preceding lesson, and annual examinations, are not in use in Edinburgh.

But when the Student wishes to take the degree of Doctor, he is obliged to prove that he has attended all the lectures of the faculty to which he wishes to be attached.—He is besides required to undergo a strict examination on all the studies he has made, and then it is that the Professors judge the candidates with just severity, by conferring degrees on those only who are truly worthy of that distinction.

The examiners endeavour to ascertain whether the pupil is thoroughly acquainted with the sciences which he has studied, or has merely learned the lessons of his tutor; whether he has

sought to form his judgment, or only been contented to exercise his memory. For this purpose the candidate is called to support a thesis on a subject, chosen by himself, and in the discussion which takes place he has an opportunity of developing his own ideas, and displaying all the information he has acquired.—The thesis must be composed in Latin and it is in that language that the discussion takes place.

Although the course of each Professor is as complete and profound as can possibly be desired, it is only designed to inspire the student with a taste and interest for the science, and to induce him to make researches on the subject with advantage. For this purpose the Professors in general do not seek to encourage the pupils to make detailed extracts from their lectures; there are even some who forbid the taking of too extensive notes; they prefer that the time which would be occupied in retracing the same ideas, under the same forms, should be employed in reading the works where they are presented in a different manner. In comparing the opinions of various authors, in meditating on subjects, considered under every point of view, the students develope their own judgment, are penetrated with the spirit of the science, and not with the words and opinions of a particular master.

The academical year is divided into two sessions, the winter session, which commences on the 1st of November, and lasts until the month of May, and the summer session, which commences in May and continues till the month of August; the courses of natural history, botany, and clinical surgery, are given in the latter session—the first is consecrated to all the other courses. The lectures take place always in the morning, and continue every day, Sundays excepted. This university possesses four faculties, but that which contributes the most to the reputation of Edinburgh, and which attracts the greatest number of strangers, is the faculty of medicine. Theology can only be studied by the Scots who are destined for the ministry, calvinism being chiefly confined to Scotland.—The chairs of theology, properly called Ecclesiastical and Hebrew history, compose this faculty. That of law is also in a great degree consecrated to the Scottish laws, which differ from those of the other kingdoms. They teach, besides, public and civil, or Roman Law. I shall not enlarge on these faculties, which, from what I have said, can only possess an interest less general than that of the others.

The faculty of medicine occupies nine Professors, all eminent in their branches; I shall confine myself to naming a few of them. The celebrated Dr. Monro, conjointly with his son, teaches anatomy, a science which has been illustrated by three successive generations of this family, and which is indebted to it for many im-

portant discoveries. It is to the father of the present Dr. MONRO that the Edinburgh school of medicine owes the origin of that eclât with which it has flourished for so many years. The chair of Botany, formerly occupied by Dr. HOPE, the father of the present professor of chemistry, the contemporary and friend of Linnæus, is at present filled by the respectable Dr. RUTHERFORD, whose great age and infirmities do not prevent him from devoting his time to instruction.*

Whilst Dr. DUNCAN, Sen. explains the theory of Medicine, Dr. GREGORY,† the ablest physician in Edinburgh, teaches the practice: his long experience has given him a profound knowledge of it: the great originality of his ideas spreads a particular charm over his lectures, and renders them agreeable and amusing, even to those who do not make medicine their particular study.

The chair of Chemistry, so renowned formerly by the celebrated Dr. BLACK, is filled at this day by a learned professor of great merit, Dr. HOPE, who annually gives a course of lectures on this fine science, equally complete and interesting. On the alert for all the new discoveries of the scientific world, either in England or on the Continent, he is eager to announce them to his auditors; and when they can be illustrated by experiments, he spares no expense, in order to place them under the eyes of his pupils. He accompanies his lectures by demonstrations made on a grand scale, with remarkable address.

It is curious to see the professor, in his introductory course of lectures, performing the most striking, and, if I may so express myself, the most magical experiments, before the astonished spectators, who, not being initiated into the mysteries of the science, seem to doubt whether the phenomena passing under their eyes, are not due to supernatural causes. The distinguished manner in which chemistry is taught, and the estimation in which it is at present held in Great Britain, are the causes why the course of chemistry is, of all others, that which attracts the greatest number of students.

The faculties of Letters, and of Mathematical Science, shine with equal lustre to that of Medicine. At their head appear two Professors, whose reputation extends throughout Europe,—Mr. DUGALD STEWART, and Mr. PLAYFAIR. United together by the bonds of ancient friendship, they rival each other in zeal and ardour for the advancement of the great sciences to which they are devoted.

---

* Dr. RUTHERFORD quitted the chair of Botany in 1817, and remitted the instruction to his son.

† This gentleman, so long an ornament to the profession of medicine, is now no more.

I believe I shall not stand in fear of contradiction when I assert, that these are the two most distinguished professors in Scotland, equally so for the universality, as well as for the depth of their learning. Whilst Mr. Dugald Stewart,* aided by a wise impulse, and severe investigation, analyses the faculties of the human mind, and carries the torch of truth into the dark and winding paths of metaphysics, Mr. Playfair, aided by his profound knowledge in the higher order of mathematics, unveils the least known properties of matter, the springs which determine, and the laws which regulate its movements. After having, for a long period, taught mathematics, Mr. Playfair now fills the chair of Natural Philosophy, or General Physics. He knows how to throw a perfect light on objects which, by their nature, are obscure; and what is still more difficult, to excite an interest in his audience for parts of that science which appear the most barren and unprofitable. But nothing contributes more to set off with advantage the talents with which his mind is endowed, than the rare modesty, and the amiable simplicity by which they are accompanied; qualities which make him beloved and sought after, even by those whose extensive knowledge might be able to intimidate him.† Mr. Dugald Stewart gives, annually, a course of moral Philosophy, and the value of his writings may be sufficiently judged from the interest excited by his lectures. This worthy successor of Hutcheson, Ferguson, and Smith, has, by his ingenious researches, added to the eclât which has for so long a period illustrated the Scottish philosophy. His lectures, (which he generally reads,) present a model of the most elegant style, and is further accompanied by a fine voice, and a purity of accent, rare in Scotland. Frequently he illustrates his subject by citations from the most celebrated classic authors, Latin and English, and the most esteemed poetry of these two nations furnish him with episodes, so as agreeably to excite the attention of his hearers, fatigued by abstract metaphysical questions. Often carried along by the interest of his subject, he lays down his manuscript, and warmly pours forth extempore effusions of the most sublime eloquence. He is not less distinguished when he treats of political economy,

---

* Since my departure from Scotland, this distinguished Professor has quitted the University of Edinburgh. Profoundly afflicted by the death of a son who promised nobly to march in the footsteps of his father, Mr. Stewart has renounced teaching, and has retired to his seat in the west of Scotland, where he pursues his learned researches. Thus we may still hope that the world will continue to be enlightened by his writings. But the University will find it difficult to replace him.

† This great Professor has recently been removed by the hand of Nature to the inexpressible grief of his country and the learned world.

a science yet in its infancy, which has arisen in Scotland, and which, for a long time, has been publicly taught only in this country.

Mr. Leslie, so well known in the scientific world, by his researches on Caloric, and by the invention of many new meteorological instruments, fills, conjointly with Mr. Ferguson, the chair of Mathematics. That of Agriculture, is at present occupied by Dr. Coventry, a man whose knowledge and talents are universally recognised throughout Scotland. He treats this Science in the most extended point of view, by applying to it the most important questions of political economy, without neglecting to enter into those details which are of more immediate utility.

The instruction in Natural History is confided to Dr. Jameson. This learned mineralogist, the disciple of Werner, studied for a long time at the school of the mines of Freyberg; thus the lithological and geological part of his course is by far the most extended, and the most interesting. He developes thoroughly, and in great detail, the doctrine of his illustrious master. His numerous works on that science sufficiently indicate his profound knowledge in mineralogy; his books have powerfully contributed to cultivate a taste for geognosy in England, and to give new and just ideas on that science.

He may be, perhaps, reproached, for refusing, out of too much respect for his master, to admit all observation which comes from any other source than that of Freyberg; perhaps, also, he employs too much time in developing the system of exterior characters, which, although indispensable to be known, is, from its dryness, its long and minute details, rather apt to disgust his hearers in the study of mineralogy. One cannot, without being unjust, reproach Dr. Jameson with passing lightly over the other branches of natural history. It may, perhaps, with more reason, be regretted, that the University, since the prodigious progress which has been made in the study of nature, has not confided to a greater number of professors the instruction of a science, become so vast, that it is almost impossible to be at the same time superior in each of the three branches which compose it. As botany possesses a chair especially consecrated to the study, it would require nothing more than to establish a chair of zoology, which might thus be destined to comparative anatomy; and the instruction of mineralogy would then occupy a professor exclusively charged with that part. In this manner the study of natural history would be as complete and distinguished as that of other sciences, and a profound vacuum, very remarkable in so well-regulated an University, would thus be filled up.

Besides the Professors who teach in the College, there are also others devoted to the instruction of youth, who, without having the rank and emoluments of Professors, are authorized by the University to give annual public courses; these bear the title of Lecturers. Amongst the latter, we remark Mr. Thompson* and Mr. Murray, each of whom gives a course of chemistry every summer, and both have published their lectures, which, although relating to the same science, are, however, treated very differently. The first, whose work, already translated into French, enjoys a well-merited reputation, confines himself to the collection of facts, and to the classing of them methodically. The other applies himself rather in discussing the comparative merits of the most celebrated hypotheses and theories; and it would be desirable if his work, written in a new and interesting manner, was better known on the continent.

In addition to so many sources of instruction, Edinburgh possesses establishments which serve as the supplementary and indispensable accessaries to the College. A vast public library is open to all the students; and, upon paying a small sum as entrance-money, they are at liberty to consult all the books without exception, and to enjoy even the privilege of taking them home, by leaving a deposit equal to the value of the work. The naturalist finds also in the college a collection of natural history, which, although not considerable at present, promises one day to become an interesting museum.

The collection of mineralogy is very complete, and is composed of fine specimens both oryctognostic and geognostic, arranged in the greatest order by Professor Jameson.

The young astronomers have at their service an observatory, admirably situated on the top of the Calton hill, and provided with excellent instruments; to which a regular Professor has recently been appointed—a *desideratum* long wanting in the University of Edinburgh.

In fine, the students of medicine, besides the precious collection of anatomical preparations, which the College owes to the persevering activity of Doctors Monro, father and son, have at their disposal an infirmary destined to the application of the science. It is in this hospital that the clinical professor gives his course, and it is here that all the students have an opportunity of observing the treatment practised by the ablest surgeons.

I cannot terminate this article on the University, without saying a word respecting the literary and scientific societies, esta-

* Mr. Thompson is at present Professor of Chemistry in the University of Glasgow. The excellent scientific journal, edited by the learned author, is well known.

blished by the students themselves, for the advancement of their studies.

There exist in no other city more perfect models of this kind of establishment. These societies contribute greatly to the scientific progress of the young men. They are entirely composed of students; some are consecrated to the sciences, others to letters and philosophy. The greater part possess libraries proportioned to their extent and to their means, besides a hall for the sittings. It is there that, under the alternate presidency of four members, annually elected by the society, a vast number of men assemble weekly, for the purpose of hearing and discussing a memoir composed by one of their number.

Nothing can be better organized and more regular than these discussions, where each individual speaks with an order, a calmness, and maturity, which would do honour to more than one assembly of full-grown men. Here the greatest silence reigns among the auditors, while a young orator defends or combats the writing which occupies their attention; the same silence still reigns a moment after he has spoken, for his antagonist, far from interrupting him, or in haste to continue the debate, waits for some minutes; then, seeing no one disposed to speak, he rises in order to reply.

When all the discourses, every one of which are extempore, have been heard, the president consults the assembly, and each is obliged to give his opinion, seated or standing, for or against, the memoir. After this first part of the sitting is terminated, a young man, who has been selected for the purpose, presents a question to the assembly, and endeavours, by a discourse previously studied, but not written, to resolve the problem which he has himself proposed. An interesting discussion takes place, and the assembly afterwards vote for or against the solution offered by the original speaker. One may easily conceive what powerful motives of emulation these societies present, where your fellow comrades are judges—and judges, perhaps, more severe than men of more advanced age. Thus he whose lot it is to read a memoir, prepares it sometime in advance, giving himself up to deep researches, in order to foresee the objections which may be raised against his opinion, and reply thereto. He is obliged, before the sitting, to give notice of his theme to every member of the society successively, in order that by reflecting on the subject they may, on their side, prepare their objections: thus a subject never escapes such an ordeal without having been thoroughly treated. Although all these societies have different objects, they resemble each other in their organization; the ordinary members are subjected to certain regulations, such as annual contributions, which enter into the funds of the society, and the duty of giving a

memoir in their turn. After having been an honorary member for two years, they become one of right, and then have access to the society, without being subjected to any charge. In general, the interior management of these societies is founded on that of the House of Commons. These institutions, to the advantage of giving the young men a profound knowledge of the subjects which form their studies, join that of accustoming them to speak in public, and to express their ideas with facility and elegance. At the head of the societies in Edinburgh appears that of medicine, erected into a Royal Society by a charter of George III.; its library is full of good works in all that relates to medicine, and every other branch of science. The arms of England surmount the seat of the presidents, one of the privileges which gives it the title of the Royal Society. The Speculative Society, the objects of which are literature, moral philosophy, political economy, and politics, properly called, has acquired great celebrity since its foundation in 1764, by the number of brilliant orators, and profound speakers, which it has given to the bar and to parliament. The Juridical Society, founded ten years later, being specially composed of young men who are destined to the bar, is occupied only with questions of law. There exists a second society, known under the name of the Physical Society, and many others which, without being equally celebrated, have not the less merit and utility.

The reader will, perhaps, pardon me for the minute details into which I have thought it my duty to enter on the subject of the University: I have wished to prove what deserved renown this great institution has acquired. The University is a source of glory and prosperity to Edinburgh, and I doubt whether there is any city in Europe comparable to it for the means of instruction which it affords to young men who are desirous of study; and when to all that I have said, are added the advantages of a capital for society, a just idea may be formed of the resources which exist in Edinburgh.

CHAPTER II.

Continuation of Edinburgh—New Town—Society.

The new town is situated on the ridge of a hill, parallel to that on which the old town is built. It is separated from it by an uncultivated and marshy valley, which formerly enclosed a small

loch. The waters of this pond, at that time, washed the black rocks of the castle, and its site is still, at this day, named the North Loch. It is some years since they have dried up this loch, but they have neither cultivated nor embellished the ground which it occupies, and this spot presents the uncommon spectacle of an uncultivated and rocky valley, situated in the very centre of a flourishing city. A fine and large bridge, constructed with hewn stone, and a mound formed by the earth carried away to lay the foundations of new streets, serve for communication between the two cities. It must not be expected that in the new town, will be found any of those edifices, or historical monuments, which would prove a source of interest to the Antiquarian. Here every thing is new, the most ancient building hardly reckoning half a century. But if no traces of ancient splendour are here to be found, as in the old town, we meet with the most striking and indubitable marks of actual prosperity. Similar, in this respect, to the rising cities of English America, the new town testifies to the stranger the general riches of the country, and the particular opulence of the inhabitants; the natural consequences of a wise and enlightened administration, of the concurrence of industry and knowledge, and, above all, of that wise liberty which regenerates and animates kingdoms. This city has had the singular advantage of being built from its origin after a vast and regular plan, the execution of which has been performed in such a manner that all its parts are uniform and symmetrical. Thus few cities exist which can be compared to the latter for the perfect regularity and the nobleness of the whole, as well as for the elegant simplicity of the minor parts. I have not the intention of giving a minute description of the new town of Edinburgh. Vast streets drawn in a line, bordered by wide pavements, and composed of houses built with fine hewn stone, uniform in size and appearance. Each house, according to the English mode, is occupied by one family. Formerly the same house served as a dwelling for many different tenants, the same as is still to be found in the old town.

The street named George-street, and the two fine squares which terminate it, present an imposing spectacle, and would be still much more remarkable, if they were more animated, but in the fine season, the proprietors of these elegant houses, inhabiting their country-seats, these long streets become deserted, and every summer the grass is observed beginning to grow in those deserted quarters, which then become the abodes of silence and of sadness.

Queen street, situated on the northern declivity of the hill, opens on a magnificent perspective. From thence is to be seen the Firth of Forth, its banks and verdant islands, the roads of Leith,

and the numerous vessels which navigate it—the expansive sea on one side, and the Grampian mountains on the other. Formerly the people enjoyed this view throughout the whole extent of Queen street, more than a mile long. In the fine summer evenings, multitudes of people come here to enjoy the freshness of the air, and to admire in their promenade the enchanting *Coup-d'œil* of this fine landscape enriched by the last rays of the setting sun. But within these few years a new quarter, erected on the farther declivity of the hill, has deprived a great part of this street of so brilliant a picture.

The street called Princes street, forms the companion to the one of which I have just spoken. The wild rock surmounted by the fortress, the valley crowned by the ancient buildings of the old town, the picturesque sites of Arthur's seat, Salisbury Craigs, and Calton hill, form a point of view which is enjoyed throughout the whole length of this street. The houses, in reflecting the rays of the sun, and affording shelter from the freezing north winds, maintain a mild and salutary heat.

It is here that all Edinburgh assemble between the hours of two and four during the winter months. This street presents also the most lively prospect. The wide pavement is covered with well-dressed men and elegantly-attired women; a continual passing of brilliant equipages, post-chaises, and mail-coaches, animate the middle of the street, which is also the grand route to Glasgow and the West of Scotland. I have often admired, in the fine nights of Spring, the romantic effect of the castle, seen from Princes street. The sharp and steep forms of the dark rock are drawn on the last reflections of the West, the walls and the buildings of the fortress seem to touch the sky, the ancient edifices of the old town, covered with the shades of night, appear like wild rocks cut into a thousand fantastic forms by the hand of time. Some rays of feeble light escape betimes from a small window in the most elevated part of the castle, and seem to proceed from a lamp which lights an unfortunate prisoner in his obscure dungeon; and the melodious sounds of the bugle, which are heard from these lofty walls like the signal of retreat, recal the days of chivalry and of the middle ages.

During my residence in Edinburgh, the inhabitants were occupied on all sides in the augmentation of the city, new streets being erected in every quarter. Others still more recent now occupy places where I have formerly witnessed nothing but fields and green parks. The prodigious and rapid enlargement of this city has infinitely enhanced the value of the land which surrounds it; I knew a proprietor who some years ago bought a small piece of ground at some distance from Edinburgh, for which he paid £1000 sterling.

There exist in the new town few edifices remarkable for their architecture. The Register office is one of the finest, the *façade* presents a very imposing point of view, when we arrive at the old town, by the stone bridge, in face of which it is built.

The building destined for the royal society and the college of surgeons is one of the principal ornaments of George-street. It is distinguished by a fine portico of eight Corinthian columns. In front of this edifice we remark St. Andrew's church, built in the Greek style. In York place, which terminates Queen street on the east, they have constructed a handsome Gothic chapel, dedicated to the English form of worship.

The Theatre is so small that it is altogether out of proportion with the grandeur of the city. But as the drama is very little cultivated in Edinburgh, it has not been found necessary to construct a new theatre. Society in Edinburgh presents so many resources, that the inhabitants do not feel the want of theatrical amusements. Besides, the Thespian corps is in general so inferior, that it does not sufficiently attract the amateurs of the theatre,—to make them renounce those social parties where they are at once sure of finding all the charms of wit, instruction, and amiable society.

It is generally believed on the continent that society in Scotland differs little from that in England. On superficially observing two nations who speak the same language, who are governed by the same sovereign, who have a resemblance in their manners and domestic habits, we are in haste to infer that their character and customs are exactly alike. We are in the habit of confounding under the name of English, the three nations who inhabit the British isles, although their origin, history, manners, education, and even their laws, are different; or if some informed persons know these differences, they only see the Scots and the Irish through the unjust prejudices with which the English are imbued, with regard to their northern neighbours. Many foreigners visit England, but few persons think of penetrating farther north, to see a people whom too many Englishmen still represent as hardly escaped from barbarism. They think they know the whole of Great Britain when they have seen London, the seaports, and the most flourishing counties of England, and they judge of the character of the inhabitants of the whole island, by the observations which they have only been able to make in the capital, and the provinces of the south. Frequently the inhabitants of the north have but too just cause to complain of these illiberal opinions.

A great many Scotsmen travel on the continent, and it is a great pity that they do not make their country known to greater advantage. But if they are distinguished from the crowd of English

by their more open character, their simplicity, their desire to please, and by their manners, which sympathise better with our own, they make an individual exception, and do not know that what captivates us, in a few individuals, must be attributed to the whole nation. One of the qualities which distinguishes the Scots from the English is their sociability. That desire of uniting and communicating with their equals, to partake their impressions, and to communicate them to others, which makes one of the greatest charms of life, is very feeble among the English, but forms one of the most striking traits in the character of the Scots. The English have been often reproached for their coldness to foreigners,* in not cherishing their society—and even in avoiding it; this reproach may be repeated, even in regard to their relations with their own countrymen. The English are very cold among themselves, a thousand obstacles prevent them from easily and freely communicating one with another. The difference of rank; much more marked than one could believe possible in a country so nearly republican, the difference of fortune, which is still more so, and above all, a certain pride which wills that no one shall place himself in advance, through fear of being deceived in the attempt; all these united causes oppose the formation of society in London; for I do not call that society, which consists of immense assemblies, which fashion, all powerful in England, has established, and which pure vanity supports. These routs are crude assemblages of persons of all kinds, not attracted towards each other by any common interest, nor by any relationship, except that of being *à la mode*,—a title independent of merit, its intrinsic value consisting solely in fashionable levity. Persons truly distinguished in England, and there are many, do not partake of the prejudices of the mass of their countrymen; they cultivate the society of enlightened men, and feel all the value of an interesting conversation. But in general the English please themselves in crowding into assemblies, so numerous, so mixed, and so destitute of every thing

* I have no occasion to add, that all which is here said on English society, must only be taken in a general sense. I have often been myself the object of traits of hospitality in England, which could not be surpassed in any country. But these cases, they say, are rare, and ought to be regarded as exceptions. Besides, it is said that the English are more sociable and more communicative at their country seats, than when assembled in London, where they form the *fashionable world*, and give themselves up entirely to the bustle of dissipation. One thing is certain, that all those, whether in London or in the country, who are devoted to science, are remarkable for their hospitality and communicative spirit. One cannot have been in the society of Messrs. Woolaston, Babington, Sirs H. Davy, R. Phillips, &c. as well as the late venerable patron of science, the illustrious Sir Joseph Bankes, without carrying away an indelible remembrance of their distinguished talents, and of their amiable attentions to foreigners who come near them to draw from such an inexhaustible source of learning.

which can interest the mind, that they appear solely intended to display the fortune of the entertainer, and his desire of making a figure in the public newspapers. It is not the same in Scotland; society there is remarkable for its harmony; the Scots love conversation, and seek, at the same time, instruction and pleasure; society is easy, because the distinctions of rank, although equally respected, are, however, less felt than in England.

There are vast numbers of families in Scotland, who, without being titled, have as noble and ancient an origin as that of many peers. There are others, illustrious in arms, sciences, and literature; and who, being sought after by all who value information, form so many links, which unite the various ranks of society.

Riches are much less essential in Scotland than in England, in order to occupy an agreeable place in society; luxury is there neither so striking nor so general. There exists, in this country, a great spirit of simplicity, and what is still more, a sort of equality in good company, which is respected by those who can the more easily abstain from it. A free cordiality, a natural politeness, proceeding rather from a desire to please, and to render others happy, than from a study of what is called usage of the world, supply, among the Scots, the haughty demeanour and the reserve of their southern neighbours. It is principally with regard to strangers that the Scottish character is shown with the most advantage. Hospitality in all its finest shades and forms, is the national virtue of Scotland. The inhabitants of this country do not partake of that coolness and prejudice with regard to foreigners, which are so often, and with too much foundation, a reproach to the English of the best society.

In seeking, in the ancient and modern state of Scotland, the causes of this remarkable difference, we shall find them in the intimate relations which formerly existed between the kingdom of Scotland, and many continental governments, particularly that of France. That power, which has always been the bitterest enemy and rival of England, was, on the contrary, the most intimate ally of Scotland, and aided it frequently to defend itself against the attacks of the English. The Scots have, even in France, until the epoch of the revolution, enjoyed privileges from which other nations were excluded; they were exempted from paying foreign duties; they had a college consecrated to the Scottish catholics, and governed by Scottish professors. Scotland furnished, also, in former times, a company of body guards to the king of France. So many privileges encouraged the nobility and gentry to travel in France, to educate their children there, and even to establish themselves. They acquired the French language, spoke it with facility, and on their return to their native

country, they introduced, as much as they could, into good society, the manners and the style of the court of Versailles.

Since the unfortunate expedition of the Pretender, and above all, since the French Revolution, the relations with France have diminished, and finally ceased altogether. But the small court of Monsieur, Comte d'Artois, established for some time in Edinburgh, maintained an intercourse among the elevated class of both nations. Scientific communications have since, a little supplied the relations of society, and the French language continues to be learned and spoken with facility, by every one who has received the least education. The ladies of Edinburgh, in particular, have a singular aptitude in acquiring French, and I have known many of them speak it fluently, elegantly, and almost without any foreign accent, reading and enjoying the beauties of the French poets, without ever having quitted their native country.

There existed also relations not less intimate between Scotland and other continental powers; Holland had for a long time Scottish regiments in its service; and the conformity of religion had established connexions between Scotland, the United Provinces, and the Protestant part of Switzerland. The Swiss are, of all people on the continent, those whose characters bear the greatest analogy to that of the Scots. Thus, they are sure of meeting with the most cordial reception in Scotland. The loyalty, simplicity of manners, love of military glory, bravery, respect for religion, and the ancient institutions of their forefathers, a more widely diffused education, and more solidity than exists among other nations, are qualities common to the Scots and to the Swiss. Their countries resemble each other in their mountains and lakes, and in the severity of a climate which inures them to fatigue and privations; in fine, they possess a similar patriotism, which causes them to leave their wild native mountains with regret, when they are obliged to quit them, in order to seek their fortune in distant climes; and which also induces them frequently to abandon the most brilliant advantages, for the sake of ending their days under their native sky. I have often been profoundly touched to find how much the quality of Swiss furnished me with the easiest access into the society of the greater part of Scotland. One trait of Scottish society, distinguished above all the rest, is the perfect security of conversation, and sincerity in the expression of their sentiments. This quality, without which society may be amusing to the mind, but cannot entirely satisfy the heart, makes a part of that morality which forms the foundation of the Scottish character, and that candour and loyalty which exist among all classes. Thus the gossiping and slander (by which it is generally accompanied,) are much less common in Scotland than elsewhere. Instruction,

which is so widely diffused, leads them the more willingly to be occupied rather with general ideas than with the character of individuals. The females having all received a very careful education, are acquainted for the most part with the most remarkable works, not only in their own, but in foreign languages. They love poetry and the fine arts with enthusiasm; music in particular; and above all, the Scottish melodies, the plaintive expression of which is in conformity with a slight tinge of melancholy, which, in the Scots, is often found united with much gaiety and good humour.

This contrast has something extremely *piquant*, and proves the perfect innocence of manners in the Scots; for affectation does not take two such opposite roads. They are passionately fond of dancing. The Scottish reels are remarkable for vivacity of movement; the music of it is purely national, and a well marked rythm animates the dancers. The greater part of the ladies display much talent and grace.

Dancing, in Edinburgh, is the most general pleasure, and they hardly renounce it until an advanced age. Nothing is more common than to see father and son, mother and daughter, figure in the same country dance. This cannot take place but where dancing is considered as an amusement, rather than as an art requiring study, and by which the people seek for applause. Not so in a country where a mutual benevolence interdicts the arm of ridicule, and permits every one to amuse himself according to his taste.

I have said that information was more generally diffused in Edinburgh than in any other city, in proportion to the population: there naturally results from this, that learning, knowledge, and literary merit, are also more appreciated, and enjoy here a consideration altogether peculiar. From the above spirit, reciprocal advantages are derived for men of letters, who find continual encouragement in good society by the esteem which is evinced for them, and for society itself, which being capable of appreciating the talents of men of letters, invites them to join its circle, and is thereby daily enriched with the talents which it calls forth and developes. Thus there are few cities where so many men of genius and talent are united as in Edinburgh. Although many individuals are here to be met with, possessing the most brilliant wit and lively imagination, yet the conversation of men is, in general, rather serious than gay. It will be sufficient to name a few of the most distinguished members of society, such as existed during my residence in Edinburgh, in order to show how many charms a stranger may find in this place. Mr. Dugald Stewart, and Mr. Playfair, of whom I have already spoken, are

not less remarkable in the world, than in the University,—by an innate genius, enriched by a vast fund of knowledge.

I have to cite here one of the most amiable Scotsmen, one of those geniuses who form the boast and pride of Scotland,—Mr. HENRY MACKENZIE; this respectable and venerable old man, the author of the "Man of Feeling," and "Julia de Roubigné," and one of the principal authors of those excellent works called the Mirror and Lounger. The perfect purity and grace of his style, have gained him the title of the Addison of Scotland; the same charms which adorn his writings, and the qualities which distinguish them, are united in his conversation: he is one of those Scotsmen who appear to have been destined, by their example, to transmit to the present generation the tradition of that ancient society of Scotland, so eminently distinguished for wit and genius, at the head of which shone Hume, Adam Smith, Robertson, and Blair.

I feel a like pleasure in mentioning Sir JAMES HALL, well known to chemists and mineralogists, by his interesting Memoirs. He has clearly demonstrated, and rendered palpable by ingenious experiments, facts which Dr. Hutton had suspected, by reasoning *à priori*, but only dared to advance as probable hypotheses. This learned character joins great originality of ideas with a sagacity of observation and a scrutinizing eye, which have enabled him to discover many phenomena in nature which had escaped the eyes of naturalists. Having travelled much in his youth, he has collected in foreign countries a mass of observations, which serve him as a basis for hypotheses, which, to say the least of them, are very ingenious. It is thus that, from witnessing some agricultural practices in France, and some phenomena of vegetation, which do not appear remarkable in themselves, he has been led to form very interesting and probable ideas on the origin of Gothic architecture. Sir James unites, frequently, at his mansion, the choicest society in Edinburgh; the rank which, by his birth and fortune, he occupies in the world, and above all, his taste for study and researches, his communicative spirit, and his conversation equally amiable and instructive, make his house the centre of attraction for distinguished individuals of every class in this famous city.

The celebrated poet, Sir WALTER SCOTT, likewise inhabits Edinburgh, where his society is universally cultivated, not only on account of his reputation as a poet, but also for the varied charms of his conversation. That lively, brilliant imagination, and that originality of idea, which so eminently distinguish his works, re-appear, under other forms, in the conversations which he animates by the gaiety of his spirit. He relates a story admirably, and knows how to give a singular poignancy to the historical

anecdotes of the middle ages, of which his head is a vast repository; he also possesses, in a high degree, that kind of pleasantry which the English call *humour*.

Sir JOHN SINCLAIR, known by his immense labours on agriculture, on the statistics of Scotland, &c. Mr. JEFFERY, the principal editor of the celebrated periodical work, the *Edinburgh Review*, whose articles are always remarkable for fine pleasantry, sometimes a little satirical, (which gives to his writings, as well as to his manner of speaking, a peculiar vein of irony;) and many other Scotsmen, distinguished by their learning, hold likewise the first places in the Society of Edinburgh.

In fine, there exist in this city whole bodies of men, in whom genius and merit are in some way hereditary. I have already spoken of the University, I shall now content myself with indicating here, the Judges of the Court of Session, and the respectable body of Advocates. These, by their number, and their almost continual residence in Edinburgh, compose, in a great measure, the permanent society in this city. They have, in general, read and seen much, and far from contenting themselves strictly with the studies required by their honourable vocations, the greater part devote themselves to more extensive researches, and cultivate every branch which has any relation with legislation, such as philosophy, belles lettres, and political economy: there are among them good historians, and distinguished literary characters; others have applied themselves to the sciences, and cultivated them with advantage. There are, in short, among these bodies, a number of men, who, in any country, would be remarkable for their learning and their genius.

One circumstance, which contributes to give movement and interest to the society of the learned, and of men of letters in Scotland is, their love for discussion and controversy in literary and scientific matters; this spirit seems to have existed from the earliest times, and is developed on different subjects, according to the influence of the age. This love for the discussion of literary, or political subjects, and for debates of a grave nature, is the cause why the men in the societies of Edinburgh cultivate so little the conversation of the ladies; although there are few countries, assuredly, where the latter are more capable of conversing upon serious subjects. But it is not the fashion to talk politics before the ladies; from thence follows, that after dinner, the men remain a long time at table after the ladies have retired into the drawing-room. It must not be believed, as many foreigners have pretended, that this custom indicates an immoderate love of drinking; this may be the case with some individuals, but the generality of the Scots and English, who still preserve the

ancient habit of prolonging their repast, seek to enjoy more rational and enlightened pleasures.*

The fashionable world in Edinburgh does not assemble till the beginning of January. On the 18th of this month, the season of pleasure and amusement opens by a brilliant public assembly, in a vast and well-ornamented hall. There, all the good company resort in numbers, and come in a measure to take possession of the spot, where, during three months, they regularly assemble once a week for dancing. From this moment, until the beginning of April, balls, public and private concerts, succeed each other without interruption. The Scottish ladies, without possessing, perhaps, in so high a degree, that regular beauty which foreigners are struck with among the English, have more grace and vivacity in their countenances. And, although quite as modest, they are equally removed from that cold reserve, and passion to excel, which is a reproach to the English, and has excited the surprise of every one on the Continent. It is difficult to meet with ladies more amiable, and so destitute of all kinds of affectation as in Scotland. In like manner, that simplicity, grace, and cheerfulness, which they display in their manner of dancing, render the balls in Edinburgh extremely animated. One circumstance, which distinguishes them from assemblies of the same nature, which bear a resemblance in the rest of Europe, is the striking contrast of elegance of manners, and brilliancy of toilette, with the wild music of the Scottish dances, similar to that of the Highlanders, and the inhabitants of the Hebrides. The shouts of the musicians to animate the dancers, who frequently echo back the cry, the vivacity of the dances, when the whole hall is at once in movement, presents an extraordinary spectacle to foreigners.

The music is so national, that a Scotsman cannot hear it with *sang froid*. I have often, at the theatre in Edinburgh, been witness of the effect produced on the whole assembly, by one of those airs named *strathspeys*, when the measure is well marked by instruments. As soon as the orchestra has resounded with this strange melody, the whole audience, in the pit as well as the boxes, are in movement; it seems as if they were about to rise up for dancing, and they can no longer remain quietly on their seats.

The winter finished, on the arrival of spring the season of pleasure passes away; some, still eager for society, set out for London in search of it, where the *winter* does not commence till

* One of those customs, which are now only to be found among old people,—a custom dictated by a certain benevolence, an original good nature, very troublesome to a foreigner,—is to drink to the health of every one present, calling them respectively by their names, and replying, at the same time, to the toast which each of these same individuals gives in his turn.

the month of May. Others go to enjoy the charms of nature, either in the neighbouring villages, or at their country seats. Then Edinburgh is as dull as it was formerly animated. However, in the beginning of August, the races attract again, during a week, the society in the environs of this city. During this period, the curious competition of pipers takes place, of which M. Faujas de St. Fond has alluded to in his travels. His description appears to me exact in certain points, but his imagination has carried him to see in the airs which these Highlanders play, a sort of description of battles, followed by the cries of the dying, and the groans of the wounded; whilst, in fact, they are only warlike marches, or complaints on the subject of the death of some chief, in which the motive or theme, is of a very tedious movement, but the variations which follow it are very lively. In these variations the musician displays his ability, and makes known his strength, by the difficult passages which he executes, and which require much agility in the fingers. The theatre is, at present, the spot where the competition of pipers takes place. The Highland Society having wished to preserve among the inhabitants of these countries, the remembrance of their ancient institutions, and principally of their national music and dances, has established an annual concert, in which prizes are decreed by the society, to those Highlanders who execute in the best manner on the bagpipe, specimens of their wild music, as well as to those who display the greatest address and variety in the dance. The Highland Society, of which I have just spoken, corresponds with a similar one established in London for many years. Nothing is more interesting than the purport of these societies, which is to search for, and collect documents and traditions, which make known the ancient state of the Highlanders, their manners, language, and music, to endeavour to preserve among them, every thing that is national, at the same time, to meliorate their condition as much as possible. This society, presided by the Duke of Athol, and which reckons among its members the most distinguished nobility and gentry in the north of Scotland and the Hebrides, pursues with the greatest zeal the career which it has itself traced. To this society we are indebted for the learned researches on the Gaëlic language, an idiom derived directly from the Celtic, which has given birth to most of the languages in the north of Europe. It is this society also, which has collected the clearest and most precious documents on the authenticity of the poems of Ossian, and which has lately given to the public, a collection of these poems in the original language, with a literal Latin translation in regard to it, which has made known many new beauties that had escaped Macpherson in his English translation.

It is much to be desired, that the same movement which pervades the minds of Scotsmen for the study of sciences and letters, should be a little more displayed in the study of the fine arts. How comes it that the Scots, who have shown so much genius for poetry, should remain so far behind in painting and sculpture? Can we attribute this want of taste for the arts, to the effects of a northern climate, or to the serious disposition of a people, more devoted, perhaps, to the study of the useful than the ornamental? This I shall not seek to discover. It is a fact, that painting has been much neglected in Scotland, and sculpture is also unknown there; during the whole of my residence in that country, I have seen nothing remarkable of this kind, and I have not even heard it affirmed, that there existed a single piece which merited attention. To atone for this neglect, there are some edifices which testify that architecture has been cultivated with more success. Adams, the architect, appears to have studied with care, the finest models, and endeavoured to introduce them into his country. But in the use which he has made in the Register Office, and some other buildings, of Venetian windows, of a mixture of Greek and Gothic, much of that noble simplicity, which agrees with the Greek style, is taken away. Domestic architecture, if I may so express myself, is arrived in this country at great perfection, uniting simplicity, elegance, and convenience.

Music, considered as a liberal art, is also much retarded; the love of the Scots for their national songs, has hitherto injured the introduction of foreign music. Instrumental music is rarely heard, and there are few distinguished musical virtuosi in Edinburgh.

CHAPTER III.

Climate and Environs of Edinburgh.

The climate of Edinburgh may generally be regarded as very variable, and it is difficult exactly to determine the temperature of the seasons. I shall endeavour, however, to trace the meteorological picture of the year.* The first snow ordinarily falls about the end of November, or beginning of December; if the wind is easterly, the snow lies a long time, and the cold augments in intensity, but as soon as the westerly wind begins to blow, its warm temperature melts the snow and the ice; then humidity, rain, and dark mists replace them. In the months of

* The middle temperature of Edinburgh is estimated at $+8\frac{1}{2}$° Reaumur, the greatest cold hardly exceeds —9° R. and the greatest heat +24° R.

January and February, which are the coldest of the year, the small lakes and ponds which surround the city, are covered with ice, sometimes three or four inches thick. It is then that the amusement of skaiting takes place, on the lakes of Duddingstone and Loch End.—The Scots are great proficients in this delightful and healthy exercise.

The first days of March are generally mild and serene ; one would think the spring had commenced, but the wind is not tardy in bringing back the cold, the ice, and the snow; and the first months of spring have as variable a temperature as those of autumn, and are still colder, in consequence of the easterly winds which prevail at this season. I have seen the snow fall, and the frost set in again with vigour, from the 16th to the 20th of April. However, towards the end of this month, the influence of the sun begins to be felt, the grass blooms in the fields, and about the middle of May, the trees are again clothed with foliage, the flowers are in blossom, and the country is covered with verdure.

The months of June, July, August, and September, are the finest of the year ; nevertheless, they are not hot, a mild temperature characterizes the summer in these regions, and the warmest days in Scotland would appear temperate in our climate of Switzerland. In July, the hay harvest takes place ; in August, that of wheat and barley ; and lastly, in September, that of oats.

Autumn commences in October, and brings with it continual rains and westerly winds, often of extraordinary violence. Frequently, in the month of November, we see astonishing examples of a sudden variation in the constitution of the atmosphere. The morning is ushered in by a pure and serene sky, indicating fine weather for the rest of the day, but towards noon the sky is covered almost instantaneously with thick clouds ; soon after, the rain pours down in torrents during the space of two or three hours ; at last, towards the approach of evening, the wind drives away the clouds, and the sky appears again entirely serene and beautiful. This variation subsists sometimes for many days in succession, accompanied by similar circumstances. The westerly wind never ceases to blow with astonishing force during the end of November and the month of December. It is, at times, so impetuous that the inhabitants cannot go out of their houses without danger. The chimney-tops fall down with a loud crash from the tops of the houses, the rain is carried away by whirlwinds, and the streets swept with a violence that can hardly be resisted. The epoch of Christmas is generally signalized by a terrible hurricane, and so general as to extend throughout Scotland. A tempest of this nature took place on the 25th of December, 1806 ; during its duration, a great number of vessels and small craft perished on the western coast of Scotland,

from the Isle of Arran, the most southern part of the Hebrides, to the northern Orcades. The sea, in similar moments, displays all its force, and rolls its floods with a fury which nothing can withstand.

The admirer of mild and rural landscape will find, on the banks of the Water of Leith, and in the fine parks which surround the city from the west to the north, lofty trees, fine green turf, limpid streams, handsome farm-houses, elegant country seats, and a thousand retired villas, which serve as ornaments to the different points of view presented by the majestic gulf of the Firth of Forth. He who loves the movement of a sea-port, of a city of commerce and manufacture, may direct himself towards the east, and descend the long avenue, bordered by houses, which conducts to Leith, where numerous vessels are unceasingly entering the port, and sailing from thence to the most distant parts of the world.

In walking towards the south of Edinburgh, the admirers of a wilder nature will find perpendicular rocks and hills, which, without being very elevated, recal, (by their bold forms, their solitary valleys, and their summits, which rise abruptly above the plains;) those views which charm the mind in mountainous countries. The botanist and mineralogist will be delighted to climb the perpendicular rocks of Salisbury Craigs, and to tread the fine green turf which covers the rapid declivity of the basaltic cone of Arthur's seat. There, although hardly a mile removed from a populous city, they may, without being interrupted by the noise of towns, and the crowds of people which buzz unceasingly around their habitations,—alone in the centre of savage nature, perceiving nothing around them but rocks and parks bestowed by nature,—devote themselves, without abstraction, to their observations, collect at their ease specimens of many fine plants or rare minerals, and meditate on the formation of those basaltic masses presented to their eyes, accompanied by the most remarkable phenomena. Arrived at the summit of Arthur's seat, the stranger cannot contemplate, without admiration, the extent of land and sea which is displayed at his feet, when, at a single glance, he embraces the vast bason of the gulf of Edinburgh, the capital, the towns and villages innumerable which border upon it; when, in fine, he remarks in the aspect of this fine country that mixture of wild nature and the products of advanced civilization, which form one of the most striking and interesting traits of the meridian of Scotland.

The handsome little valley, at the bottom of which runs the Water of Leith, is situated at the western extremity of the new town. This river, which takes its source in the Pentland hills, after a course of fifteen miles, runs into the Firth of Forth in the

middle of the town of Leith. In approaching Edinburgh its bed is confined in a narrow valley, the banks of which are covered by fine trees and plantations, which leave, however, at intervals, sufficient light to perceive the steep portions of the rock on which they stand. On the two banks are laid out winding foot-paths for the enjoyment of the numerous groups who promenade, during the fine season, this retired and rural spot. A spring of mineral water spouts out towards the middle of the valley at a little distance from the brook; it is enclosed in a well, surrounded by a small temple, open from all parts, in a manner that its long thin columns serve to embellish the varied points of view which the trees, the rocks, and the brook, present to the eye. This small stream of water, the course of which is here and there interrupted by large fragments detached from the rock, forms small cataracts, near which the water-wagtail seeks the aquatic insects by which it is fed. The aspect of this rotunda, called *Saint Bernard's Well*, would possess all the charms which result from a mixture of elegant architecture with the verdure of the woods, had not its architect, in some sort, disfigured this fine monument, by placing in the centre of it a gigantic and grossly-sculptured statue, representing the Goddess of Health.

At the opposite extremity of the city, viz. on the eastern side, stands the Calton Hill, a fine grassy down, almost completely covering the rock of which it is formed. It height is only 350 feet above the level of the sea. A handsome mausoleum has been constructed near the summit of the hill, to the memory of the historian Hume: it is a circular tomb, ornamented with pilasters, after the manner of the ancient Roman tombs. On the summit of this Hill is erected a flag-staff, which serves as a telegraph to announce the arrival of vessels in the bay, as well as their departure from the roads of Leith. A half-pay Officer of the Marine inhabits a small wooden house, very neat, at the foot of the telegraph, and it is from thence that he directs the signals. They have here, also, erected a splendid monument to the illustrious Nelson, destined to perpetuate the remembrance of his memorable victories and glorious death. It would be difficult to describe the magnificent prospect enjoyed from the top of this hill. Edinburgh presents, on the west, the most picturesque point of view. Whilst, on the right of the spectator, the fine row of Prince's Street extends nearly as far as the eye can reach; on his left stand the irregular buildings of the old town, which form a striking contrast with the elegant regularity of the new. The barren valley which separates them is presented at full view, with its fine bridge covered with carriages and foot-passengers; farther on, is distinguished the mound which forms a communication from one town to the other; in fine, the perpendicular

rock, surmounted by the ancient castle, terminates on this side this astonishing perspective. On the south side, at his feet, stands the palace of Holyrood, above which rise the steep declivities of Salisbury Craigs, and the summit of Arthur's seat. At the east and the north is presented a prospect of another kind, the gulf of Edinburgh in all its extent, wide at its extremity, and mingling with the full sea which bounds the horizon; then it grows narrower insensibly, until it appears no more than a large river. Here smooth, there steep and mountainous banks border this vast extent of water, and are covered on all sides with towns and villages without number, many of which are sea-ports: the most considerable, and the nearest of these ports, is that of Leith. The island of Inch-Keith, with its elevated beacon light, appears placed there to protect the roads from the easterly winds, and to guide the vessels in their voyages by night. The island of May, at the entrance of the Firth, those of Inch-Colm and Inch-Garvey, situated in the middle of the gulf, agreeably interrupt the too monotonous aspect of the immense liquid plain.

I was one day, on promenading at the foot of the Calton Hill, witness to a very curious scene; it was on a fine Sunday evening in spring; I saw, at a distance on the down, an immense number of men, women, and children, some standing, others sitting pell-mell, and all occupied with the same subject. I soon distinguished in the crowd a man who occupied a more elevated place than the rest, and appeared to attract the attention of all the people. I approached nearer, and saw him mounted on a table, haranguing his auditors like a mountebank at a fair; he spoke in a animated tone, and the most profound silence reigned in his auditory. What was my astonishment, when I discovered that this orator, whose voice, gestures, clothing,—in fine, whose whole appearance, seemed to indicate a buffoon, was one of those Methodist preachers and pretended ministers of religion, who instructed the passers-by, and those who were enjoying the promenade, which the beauty of the evening had attracted to the Calton Hill, in the doctrines of his sect.

In the most vulgar costume, crying with the voice of a Stentor, gesticulating like Punchinello, this singular preacher could not inspire a very great degree of devotion in the multitude of goers and comers, who, uncovered, stopt a moment to hear his sermon, and who, for the greater part, retired more scandalized than edified, in thus seeing profaned the sacred name of religion, and assimilating the noble profession of a Minister of the Gospel, to that of a buffoon at a fair. It is still more surprising to see such a scene permitted by the magistrates of a city, and of a country which professes, in its minutest details, a purity and severity, in matters of religion, at times pushed to the extreme. I know

that the British constitution permits the free exercise of every religious persuasion, but, in such a case, this tolerance ought to be within bounds, and it ought not to be permitted to the first mechanic who may think himself inspired, to establish himself in a public place, and there to preach a doctrine, as vicious in its dogmas, as dangerous in its effects; a doctrine where the Divinity is represented as a judge without mercy and without clemency, and where the most terrible torments of hell are described as being the lot of those who do not embrace the particular belief of Methodists ! ! ! Such pictures are the continual subject of discourse with these preachers of the highways, and have deranged the minds of many feeble and superstitious persons.

After having visited the Calton Hill, the stranger may proceed to Leith, the port of Edinburgh, at the distance of about two miles from the city; on his way he will pass near the Botanical Garden. Edinburgh is indebted to the late Dr. Hope, Professor of Botany, and father of the present Professor of Chemistry, for the arrangement of this fine place. This respectable Professor, wishing in some manner to consecrate this establishment to the memory of the first of naturalists, elevated a little altar, very simple, on which is engraved this inscription:—*Linneo posuit Hope.* It is astonishing to see so few exotic plants in the hot-houses, which they may so easily fill with the finest productions of India, the Cape of Good Hope, and New Holland.

Leith is neither remarkable for the elegance of its streets, nor for its grandeur; but this little town presents the most animated aspect which a commercial town and sea-port can offer. Its bay, wide and spacious, sheltered from the east winds by the small island of Inch-Keith, offers a sure and convenient anchorage to the largest vessels of war. The port is protected at its entrance by a long and strong pier, which serves as a promenade to the inhabitants of Leith. From thence may be contemplated, at all hours of the day, the animated sight of a crowd of ships, of all sizes, which are continually entering and departing. But of all that can attract attention in this port, nothing is more remarkable than the vast and magnificent bason, constructed of hewn stone. There exist few sea-ports which possess so extended a harbour bason, and of so solid and handsome a construction.

The principal commerce of Leith is with Russia, Sweden, and Denmark; besides a very considerable coasting trade. Among the number of manufactures, the most interesting is that of glass, which has here attained great perfection.

I shall now say a few words concerning the numerous country-seats and fine estates in the neighbourhood of this city. Not wishing to enter, in this respect, into minute details, foreign to the plan of this work, I shall content myself with inviting travel-

lers not to neglect seeing the grounds and the Castle of Dalkeith, the ordinary residence of the Duke of Buccleugh ; and Duddingston, situated by the side of the fine loch of that name, and at the foot of Arthur's seat. This estate, belonging to the Marquis of Abercorn, borders upon the picturesque and ancient ruins of Craigmillar Castle, which, by its situation, attracts the attention of strangers. The traveller will be still more induced to visit this ancient palace, when he learns, that for many years it was the favourite residence of the unfortunate Mary Stuart.

The fine estate of Pennycuik, of which the house is as remarkable for its noble and elegant architecture, as the park for the beauty of the verdure, the meadows, and the woods, will charm the admirer of English gardens. It is the same with the beautiful estate of Woodhouselee, the ancient manor of the family of Tytler, of Woodhouselee—a family long distinguished in literature and jurisprudence; the descendants of whom, actually in possession of the first places in the bar, worthily support the reputation of their ancestors.

Not far from Woodhouselee one cannot behold, without enchantment, the charming valley of Hawthornden, and the ruins of the ancient feudal Castle of Roslin, which command it.

The ruins of Roslin Castle are not considerable; but their elevation on the top of a perpendicular rock, the woods which surround them, the romantic and varied neighbourhood, have rendered these remains of the middle ages worthy of their renown. The ancient poets and minstrels of Scotland, in making these fine places the subjects of their simple ballads, have rendered them popular and classical among a nation which joins to the most lively taste for poetry, a remarkable inclination for the beauties of nature. The village of Roslin contains an edifice, which, notwithstanding its diminutiveness, may be considered as a *chef-d'œuvre* of Gothic architecture, and as a perfect model of this kind. It is a small chapel, founded in the fifteenth century by St. Clair, Prince of the Orkneys. The most exquisite labour is displayed in the exterior, the arches, windows, &c. as well as in the interior, the columns, roof, &c. It is divided into numerous compartments. All the chapters of the columns, and the different parts, as well outside as inside of the chapel, are covered with sculpture. On one of these chapters is to be seen the representation of a concert, by angels, on different instruments of music, the greater part at present unknown among us. I remarked there the cherubim playing with the bag-pipe, cited by Pennant in his work. It is a proof of the antiquity of this national instrument, the form of which does not appear to have changed during so great a lapse of time. It is also to be observed how much the ancient Scots prized this instrument, which is regarded at this day

as monotonous and barbarous, since they found it worthy of figuring in a celestial concert.

During my residence in Edinburgh, I profited by some moments of leisure, to visit the banks of the Firth of Forth. My different excursions extended to North Queen's Ferry, as far as Earl's Ferry, near Ely, on the northern side of the gulf, and from Borrowstonness, as far as St. Abb's head, on the southern shore.

In departing from Edinburgh, with some friends about the end of *January*, we directed our steps towards the sea, which we reached a little to the west of the small village of Newhaven. The weather was foggy, without being cold; the ground was entirely cleared of snow, and we began to feel some drops of rain. The huge rocks which surrounded the shore, served us for shelter when the rain became heavier. In following along the coast, always from east to west, we soon reached the village of Cramond, and stopped a little to view the mouth of the river of that name. A small boat, belonging to a sloop which lay at anchor with some other vessels, at the entrance of the river, served us to cross it. We observed, with interest, a particular order of shell-fish which the sea throws out, in great quantities, on the shore. Shortly after passing Cramond, we saw the coast so covered with muscles, that it appeared painted with a blue colour: a mile further on, we could not perceive a single one, and the coast again appeared white, with innumerable small shells, of the species *heart-shell*. We left behind us a chain of small islands, which indicated the direction of a hill under the sea, extending from north to south, that is to say, perpendicularly in the direction of the hills on the banks of the Firth. These islands, among which is distinguished that of Inch Colm, are barren and naked: on one only appeared an isolated house. Some miles farther on we reached a fine wood of pine and fir-trees, which forms a part of the extensive park belonging to Lord Roseberry. We quitted, for a moment, the banks of the sea, in order to traverse this forest, the abode of wild rabbits, where we found a shelter against an approaching storm; the sky beginning to overhang with dark clouds. Arrived on a little eminence, a picturesque point of view presented itself to our eyes; the gulf, diminishing in width, had taken the appearance of a fine lake; a long promontory advanced into the waters; a little island, or, to speak more correctly, a steep rock, surmounted by the ruins of an ancient castle, raised its head in the middle of this lake; dark clouds, covering the summits of the mountains and distant hills, spread an obscurity over all the surrounding objects; the wind whistled in the pine and fir-trees, which bounded the shore, and the waves of the sea, rolling one against the other, caused a confused and roaring noise. A black tinge, spread over the shores of

the island of Inch Garvey and its ancient castle, added still more to the sublime effect of the picture. The rain was of short duration; in a few moments we saw the sky clear up, the clouds dissipate, and the weather become perfectly serene; a singular effect of the inconstancy of the climate, the heat and rain. Such sudden variations are astonishing in the middle of winter, under so high a latitude. We soon perceived Inch Garvey nearer to us, illumined by a fine sky; the opposite side of the county of Fife, covered by hills and picturesque rocks, was no longer separated from us but by a narrow arm of the sea, a mile and a half in width; but more to the west, the Firth again enlarged, and we saw, at a distance, the snowy tops of the mountains of the Highlands, which appeared to me to have much resemblance to the Alps in Switzerland.

After a walk of four hours from Edinburgh, we arrived at the burgh of South Queen's-ferry, at a distance of nine miles from the city, by the direct road. The season was not sufficiently advanced to enable us to see all the beauty of the grounds, and the magnificent palace of Lord Hopetown, which is at a little distance from Queen's-ferry. I visited them some months later, and I cannot say which struck me most, the splendour of this superb edifice, which, by its extent and architecture, may rival with the palaces of Italy; or the beauty of its park, woods, and green turf; or, lastly, its situation on the summit of a hill, from whence it commands the Firth of Forth. The prospect is not less enchanting, either when regarding the gulf on the side towards the sea, we see it covered with little islands of various forms, and at various distances, encircled with banks, on which are distinguished innumerable towns and small villages, terminating at last in the horizon, in the vast expanse of the German ocean;—or, when turning towards the west, the Firth is seen taking the appearance of a small lake, the waves being exhausted at the base of the high hills behind, which are seen again, the long chain of the Grampian mountains. We had hardly arrived at Queen's-ferry when we found the passage-boat ready to sail; they received into it carriages, horses, and passengers of all kinds; we made haste to avail ourselves of it in crossing the small arm of the sea which separated us from the county of Fife. The order was given to hoist the sail, the wind blew, and in less than a quarter of an hour we reached the northern side of the gulf, after having sailed close by the little island of Inch Garvey, and we landed at north Queen's-ferry. This burgh, and the one we had just quitted, although separated by a narrow and difficult passage, and situated in different counties, bear the same name, and are only distinguished by the epithets of North and South. This name, signifying the passage of the Queen, is derived from Queen Margaret, wife of Malcolm

Canmore, who protected the two burghs, and frequently traversed the gulf in that part of the passage.

The grand route of the north of Scotland passes by north and south Queen's Ferry, where travellers are obliged to embark their carriages. A plan has been talked of, for digging a road under the sea-coast, which, over a space of nearly three miles, would be constantly lighted by lamps. It is pretended that this singular project would not present many difficulties, and that experiments have already demonstrated the possibility of it. In fact, many galleries of numerous coal mines, which they have worked on these coasts, have been pushed very far under the sea; there even exists one which has reached the middle of the passage. If this work is once undertaken, it is to be feared that extraordinary accidents would be opposed to its success; the least gap which would be formed in the rock, would suffice to inundate entirely the subterraneous galleries; and suppose even that all the chances were favourable, would not the immense sums which this establishment would cost, the keeping in repair and continual lighting of this new kind of road, be disproportioned to any advantages which might result from it?

As we should have been at too great a distance from the sea, had we taken the high road to go to Inverkeithing, the first town to the east of North-Ferry, we preferred going along the coast, in order to attain the same object. From the height of the rocks which rise above Queen's-ferry, there is a fine maritime view to be enjoyed. Under our feet extended a bay, formed by the promontory on which the burgh is built; a crowd of small boats were assembled for the herring fishery, and animated the landscape; innumerable quantities of sea-gulls of all kinds, and the great ash-coloured sea-bird, (goeland,) attracted by the hope of seizing the small fish, which the fishermen threw out of their nets, flew, fearless, around the boats, and came to catch these fish, even in the very boat. A grey heron, concealed in the briars on one of the little hills covered with grass, which bordered the shore, flew away at our approach.

We passed through Inverkeithing—a dirty, disagreeable town, having a small port, which receives some fishing vessels. The night surprised us ere we arrived at Aberdour, about three miles distance from Inverkeithing; the roads were bad and fatiguing. We slept at Aberdour, a dull fishing town; there is, however, some trade done there; salt and coals, as well as salt herrings, are exported.

A small creek forms the port of this village, and presents a picturesque aspect. At the time we arrived, all the small boats had gone out to the herring fishery. Between the port and Aberdour is to be seen a castle in ruins, formerly inhabited by the

illustrious family of the Mortimers; it belongs now to Lord Murray, who is also proprietor of the island of Inch Colm, situated almost opposite to this village. There is also visible, on this small island, the ruins of a monastery, consecrated to St. Columban. To the east of the port of Aberdour, the rocks become steep, and form perpendicular hills from 100 to 150 feet in height above the level of the sea, where the waves roll majestically along, and break with a loud noise at their feet. Whilst we surveyed the summit of these rocks, a terrible hurricane arose, the wind blowing with incredible violence, drove whirlwinds of snow and rain against us. The sea was agitated, the roaring of the waves redoubled, the birds of the sea flew around us, uttering doleful cries; at a distance we saw all the boats that were occupied in the herring fishery, frightened by the tempest, and approaching the shore. This storm was of short duration, and the clouds dispersed in an instant.

Arrived at the most elevated point of the rocks, we found ourselves on an esplanade of green turf. No description can paint the beauty and the extent of the view which we enjoyed. Our attention was alternately fixed on the sea, covered with boats; on the coast which we had travelled along, cut into bays and high rocks, and bounded by islands of a varied aspect; and on the opposite coast, where we still distinguished Edinburgh, the castle, and the picturesque hills which surround it. Towards the east the shores appeared to retreat: in removing to a distance, the gulf increased, and the vast extent of the ocean terminated with the horizon. We quitted with regret so fine a point of view, in order to descend again on the sandy shore. Soon after we entered into a wood, forming part of the park of Lord Morton; and after having followed for some time along footpaths bordered on each side with small trees and briars, we arrived at a port capable of receiving two or three single-masted vessels. An isolated house, built on the borders of the sea, served as a habitation to a man who salted and put up in barrels the herrings brought to him by the boats of the neighbouring villages. Fifty barrels were filled, and ready to be closed up; we remarked with interest the arrangement of these barrels, destined to be conveyed to distant places. Many successive beds of salt and herrings were placed one over the other; the fish, after having been previously gutted, were arranged symmetrically, like the rays of a circle, in a way to take up the least space; thus each of these little barrels contained an incredible number. The fly-fish attract generally with the herrings many flat-fish of a small size, such as soles, flounders, &c. which they throw away as useless; the sea coast was strewed with them. Having stopped some minutes at Burntisland, a small town, with a sufficiently large port, we saw, on our setting out,

the whole land thickly covered with snow. In place of a brilliant landscape which we had enjoyed in the morning, we found a real northern prospect. The sea was of a black colour, and its coast, white with the snow, formed a singular contrast. From Burnt island to Pettycur, we travelled about two miles on a fine sand, which formed the shore ; on our left, we saw the steep hills from the heights of which Alexander III., King of Scotland, carried away by his horse, was precipitated and killed on the spot. The people, always eager for the marvellous, pretended that a sorceress, to whom he had refused charity, had frightened his horse.

While waiting for the passage boat from Pettycur to Leith, I examined on the sea-coast some basaltic rocks, disposed in prisms of remarkable dimensions, but of a very irregular form. A small boat, already filled with passengers, again received us ; the wind was variable, and blew with force ; night approached, and the sailors, very uncertain of the weather, seemed to repent of their avidity in filling beyond measure—an embarkation, which a gale of wind would suffice to upset, and which the least surge might overwhelm. However, the wind was favourable to us, and in an hour we had traversed the seven miles which separates Leith from Pettycur. All the little towns which we had passed through on the coast of Fife, during this excursion, were formerly residences of the ancient Sovereigns of Scotland. They had palaces there, besides many great and rich convents; but at this day these towns are inhabited by more industrious classes of people, such as miners, sailors, and fishermen.

I again crossed the firth from Leith to Pettycur, towards the end of February, with the intention of visiting that part of the coast which extends to the east of this town. I had the pleasure of making this excursion with Mr. W. B——, Advocate in Edinburgh, whose affairs called him to this part of Scotland. The passage from Leith to the coast of Fife is very animated. Sloops and other vessels sail at all hours from each of these ports ; it being the most direct communication from Edinburgh and Leith with the Northern provinces. A violent south-west wind caused our small vessel to sail but slowly, the prow of the boat was frequently entirely immersed in the waves, and the surges breaking against the planks, inundated the deck with foam. Not being able to remain on deck, we were obliged to descend into a dark and narrow cabin, filled with sea-sick passengers. The passage was not long ; in 40 minutes we arrived at Pettycur.

There we took a post-chaise and crossed to Kinghorn, at a distance of a mile and a half from where we set out ; this town, as well as that of Kirkaldy, which is three miles farther on, is disagreeable, dirty, and ill built. But these two little seaports are remarkable for the activity which prevails in them The

trade of coal from the neighbouring mines, that of salt extracted from the sea water, the herring and cod fishery, &c. in fine, many manufactories of woollen, linen, and cotton cloth, occupy all the industrious population of these towns.

On leaving Kirkaldy we descended to see the ancient castle of Ravenscheugh, situated on the sea coast, on rocks of very great steepness. This castle, the ancient residence of the St. Clairs, Counts of the Orkneys, is at present nothing but a massive ruin, little picturesque in its appearance, and remarkable only for its situation. It has become more interesting since the celebrated Walter Scott has sung its praises in his charming poem, "*The Lay of the Last Minstrel:*" it is in this place where the poet has laid the scene of his touching episode of Rosabella; and it was from the castle of Ravenscheugh that this young female, of the family of St. Clair, embarked to cross the agitated sea, in which she was not long in finding a watery grave.

The route soon after leaves the sea coast, and crosses a rich and well cultivated country; corn appears here to be the principal culture, indicating good land and a good situation. We passed by the fine fir woods belonging to the superb estate of the Earl of Wemyss. After dining at the handsome little inn of Windygate, which, for its order and neatness, called to our recollection the English hotels, we again continued our route; night approached, and when we had crossed Leven—the darkness prevented us from distinguishing objects. The little village of Leven has acquired some celebrity for having given birth to Alexander Selkirk, a sailor who, cast ashore by shipwreck on the desert island of Juan Fernandez, lived for many years there entirely alone. It was from the artless recital of this humble individual, that Daniel De Foe composed the adventures of Robinson Crusoe. It is said his descendants still guard the box and the gun which he had saved from the shipwreck and preserved in his island.

We slept at the village of Kilconquhar; the weather was serene, and the moon reflected its trembling light in the little lake on the banks of which the village is situated.

The next day, the 21st February, I made in the first instance the tour of this fine lake, which is only a mile and a half in circumference; on one side rises the little village of Kilconquhar, surrounded with cultivated fields at the foot of a hill of considerable height; the rest of the lake, bordered with fine woods of pine and fir, is enclosed in the park of Sir John Anstruther. A thousand wild birds take up their abode near this beautiful piece of water, numerous flocks of ducks of all kinds swim in the middle of the bason, rarely approaching the bank, and water fowls and moor game mix along with them; great flights of sea gulls, as well as some

cormorants, rapidly pass from one side to the other: among this immense number of wild birds are to be seen many tame swans, which sail majestically on the smooth surface of the waters.

Kilconquhar is not a mile and a half distant from the sea. I proceeded along the coast to examine the rocks, in particular those called Kincaid-rocks, which had been indicated to me as enclosing remarkable grottoes. After walking during half an hour across cultivated fields, on an unequal and rocky soil, I reached a small eminence by the sea coast. An extensive view opened before me,—I had arrived at the entrance of the gulf of Forth. I saw the vast ocean on the east; on the south, the coast of Dunbar, North Berwick, the conical mountain called Berwick Law, rising above the latter city; in fine, the singular Bass rock issuing out of the floods, like an isolated mountain.—A light mist threw a veil over all these objects, from which I was separated by the whole breadth of the Firth. This gulf had already begun to lose the appearance of an unlimited sea, and to take the form of a fine lake. I perceived at my feet the burgh of Earls-ferry, and farther off to the east, the little port of Ely, and also the town of the same name, situated on a sandy promontory. The sea had deposited, in the environs of Ely and Earls-ferry, a great quantity of sand, which is laid either in layers along the sea shore, or in high heaps. In fine, I arrived near the black and steep rocks of Kincaid; their elevation is nearly 300 feet above the level of the sea, and they are pierced with caves of more or less grandeur, called the caves of Macduff, the name of one of the Thanes of Fife, the contemporary of Macbeth. The largest of these caves, my guide told me, is 200 feet in depth, by 160 in height. I was obliged to content myself with his assertion, for the tide was high, and the sea obstructed my entry into the grotto; thus, it not only appeared impossible for me to enter, but I could only see it very imperfectly.—There is no doubt but these grottoes are the work of the waters of the sea; their small elevation above its level, and the very tender nature of the rock in which they are hollowed, seem to me clearly to indicate this opinion.

In contemplating these rocks, I thought I observed in the matter which formed those at a distance from me, a tendency to take the prismatical and regular figure of the basalt. I did not doubt but there were a number of basaltic columns; it was impossible to arrive at them in following along the coast, the sea cutting off all communication between that part of the rock and the others. I was obliged to endeavour to get at them from the top, which was no easy task. I at last, not without trouble, climbed up the rapid declivity of a very high hill of sand, some prickly reeds which grew in the sand, served to support me. Arrived at the height, and finding myself on a level with the heights of the

Kincaid rock, I was not long in perceiving that portion of the rock which formed a group of handsome basaltic columns, of the most perfect regularity; but this remarkable group was 200 feet under me, and I was separated from it by a precipice, at the bottom of which the sea rolled in tremendous waves. I looked for a long time to find a way to descend, but the rock was perpendicular. At last, I discovered a place which appeared to me practicable, although almost vertical. I had so great a desire to examine closely these basaltic prisms, the first at all regular that I had seen in Scotland, that, without dreaming of danger, I glided along the best way I could, catching the tufts of dry grass, which grew there in abundance, and serving myself, in the way of steps, with the heads of the columns which grew out of the earth like trunks of trees which had been cut a little above the roots.

Arrived at the borders of the sea, I found myself at the foot of a group of columns, of which I admired the regularity, and, I may say, elegance; the largest were twenty-five feet in height, and not more than six or eight inches thick; they were so well ranged together, that they presented altogether the appearance of the front of a full-sized organ; some were straight, but the greater part had a slight curve, without losing their parallelism. I found, in mounting again, more difficulty, being charged with the trunk of a small column, whose perfect regularity had led me to carry it away. However, with much trouble I reached the summit, where I again found my guide, who appeared astonished to see me return safe and sound. From the top of these rocks is seen, at a little distance, the small island of May, situated at the entrance of the Firth of Forth, and on which is placed a light-house, to indicate to vessels the entry of this gulf. There is also a fine view over the vast bay of Largo, which opens to the west of the rocks of Kincaid. Its banks a little elevated, and well cultivated, are covered with villages and burghs, such as Largo, Wemyss, and, farther off, Dysart. On the opposite side is seen the Pentland Hills, and those of the environs of Edinburgh, which, at such a distance, seem almost lost in the clouds.

M. B * * * conducted me to the house of the Pastor of Kilconquhar, who expected us to dinner; this respectable man received us with all the hospitality of the Scots, in the simple and modest manse which he inhabited with his family. He pressed us much to finish the day with him, but we had to sleep at Windygate, where we did not arrive until late.

We set out the next morning before it was dawn, and, in order not to return to Edinburgh by the same route, we went a roundabout way to see the small town of Kinross, and the beau-

tiful lake of Leven, on the banks of which it is built. The road crosses through plains cultivated with care, at the feet of Lomond hills, covered with grass and heath to their summit. Their height, according to Mr. Jameson, is only 1650 feet; notwithstanding their small elevation, as they command from afar all the neighbouring country, they are perceived at a great distance. We traversed the fine and rich villages which attest the prosperity of agriculture in this part of the county of Fife.

However, on approaching Loch Leven, the country becomes uncultivated, the valleys and mountains are covered with black heath; marshy plains, and turf pits, occupy the bottom of the valleys, and the country in general, presents a dull and barren aspect. But the moment the traveller arrives at the beautiful lake of Loch Leven, nature embellishes, the landscape becomes more open and gladsome. We coasted along for some time the borders of this lake, ere we arrived at Kinross. This small town, little remarkable in itself, is situated in a charming position on the banks of the lake, which not being more than twelve miles in circumference, may be taken all in at one view. The fine estate of Mr. Graham, by the side of Kinross, and on the same banks, merits to be visited. From thence is seen the best view of Loch Leven, and the surrounding mountains. It was not without interest that I saw the little island that rises in the middle of this fine piece of water; the picturesque ruins of the castle of Lochleven, which occupy nearly the whole extent of it, adds to the beauty of the landscape, and the historical remembrances which attach to this ancient castle, augment the impression which it produces.

It was within the walls of this castle that Mary Stuart, after the loss of the battle of Pinkie, was condemned to the hardest captivity, by the confederated Lords of Scotland, having at their head that same Murray who forced her to abdicate in favour of his son. After many useless efforts to escape from her prison, she owed her deliverance to the very brother of her cruel gaoler. George Douglas, a young man eighteen years of age, struck with the beauty of the Queen, and touched by her misfortunes, undertook to save her; having carried away from his brother the keys of the castle, he brought, during the night, a small boat under the walls, induced the Queen to escape from her prison, and conducted her to a land where some faithful subjects awaited her, and received her with transports of joy. On quitting the castle, he threw the keys into the lake; and I have heard it said, that a fisherman, a few years ago, in drawing up his net, dragged along with it from the bottom of the waters, those very keys which had so long remained engulfed. Around the walls of the castle are still seen some trees, venerable for their antiquity, under the

shade of which, there is no doubt, the unfortunate Mary many a time seated herself.

Pennant relates that in the year 1335, the castle of Loch Leven, although for a long time besieged by the English, refused all capitulation. Repeated assaults not being attended with any success, Sir John Stirling, the commander of the English troops, had recourse to a singular method to render himself master of it. He shut up by a strong bank the mouth of the small river which runs from the lake, in a manner that its waters, no longer having issue, began to rise rapidly, and threatened to inundate the island, and even the fortress which governs it. But the Scottish commander, profiting one day by a religious fête, which a part of the English army had gone to celebrate at the Abbey of Dunfermline, made a vigorous sortie, and broke down the bank; the waters, for a long time shut up, escaped with violence, and spread over all the surrounding places, destroyed the English camp, and put the army into complete disorder.

The lake of Leven produces in abundance the best fresh-water fish, such as trout, pikes, perches, and eels, which are sent to Edinburgh, where they are sold very dear.

After promenading on the borders of the lake, during a part of the morning, we returned to Edinburgh by the way of Queen's Ferry.

CHAPTER IV.

Continuation of the Environs of Edinburgh.

The small island of Inch-Keith was also the object of a voyage, which I had the pleasure to make with Sir James Hall, Mr. Allen, and some admirers of mineralogy, towards the middle of April. Inch-Keith rises in the middle of the Forth, three miles from Leith. We took a boat at Leith, and in sailing by the numerous ships which anchored in the roads, I observed many sea-gulls of different species, which flew round the vessels in hopes of catching some food. Among them we found the Grey Göeland, *(larus fuscus.)* I saw also the beautiful black mantled Göeland, *(larus marinus)*, the largest of sea gulls, which mixes rarely with the others, and are never seen in troops. This grand bird is generally seen swimming alone on the surface of the agitated waves; it is very wild, and difficult to be approached within pistol shot. We came ashore at a small port, dug by the

hands of nature, at the foot of very high rocks. After having made the tour of the island, following along the sea-coast, which is every where supplied by naked and barren rocks, we ascended a fine down which covered the top of the island, where we saw neither trees, bushes, nor any kind of shrub ; the people have not even tried to plant any, the proximity of the sea being prejudicial to their growth. At the most elevated point of the hill there is a house, surmounted by a light. A man and a woman are the only inhabitants of this isolated abode, and take care to kindle every night the light of the beacon. A few years ago, there were a great number of rabbits in the island ; but the sailors of a Russian fleet, which lay some time in Leith Roads, destroyed them all. The view from the light-house is a fine panorama over the whole gulf. Edinburgh, Leith, Arthur's Seat, Salisbury Craigs, and the Calton hill, are finely seen, and present a charming picture.

Pennant tells us that this island owes its name to the valiant Keith, who displayed astonishing bravery at the battle of Barry, in the county of Angus, gained in 1010 by the Scots over the Danes. In recompense for his signal services, the King granted him the Barony of Keith, and this little island. Edward VI. having in 1548 sent an English army against Scotland, (a very ungallant way to obtain for his son the hand of the young Queen Mary,) his soldiers fortified this island, which became important to them, in order to protect the fleet with which they ravaged the shores of the Firth, but they did not long keep possession of it. General Dessé de Montalembert, who commanded an auxiliary corps of 6000 French, sent by Henry II. to the assistance of the Dowager Queen of Scotland, the mother of Mary, rendered himself master of it, notwithstanding the vigorous resistance of the English. Some years afterwards, the parliament of Scotland ordained the demolition of these fortifications, and there is now no longer any trace of them to be found. I saw, for the first time, at Inch-Keith, the fine birds named here gannets, or Soland geese. These grand palmipedes, of the size of a goose, have a very rapid flight, their plumage is entirely white, except the black at the end of their wings, and a slight yellowish tint on the head and neck. They do not build their nests at Inch-Keith, but on the Bass rock, a distance of twenty-one miles. They set out from thence in the morning, to spread over all the eastern parts of Scotland, at incredible distances, and return every evening to their steep rock, where they live in thousands.

The desire of seeing this remarkable rock, from the quantity of sea birds which take up their abode there, and the wish to profit by the society of Mr. Patrick Neil, secretary to the Society of Natural History, and Mr. Ogilvie, a distinguished mineralo-

gist, and pupil of Jameson, who were going to visit the southern banks of the Firth of Forth, induced me to undertake this interesting excursion in the middle of June, a time when nature is in all its charms, and the aspect of the country is most delightful.

The route, on setting out from Edinburgh along the foot of the hill of Salisbury Craigs and Arthur's Seat, on the side towards the south, presents to the view gentle declivities, covered with beautiful verdure.

Leaving at our left the extensive cavalry barracks, at that time occupied by the Scots Greys, a corps remarkable for the eclât of its uniform, and the beauty of its horses, entirely grey, we arrived by the sea coast, at the handsome village of Portobello. The Italian name agrees very well with this small town, known for the mildness of its climate. One might fancy himself, on arriving there, on the banks of the Mediterranean ; many delicate persons come to enjoy a warmer air than that of Edinburgh, and others resort in crowds, during the fine season, for the purpose of Sea Bathing. Near this town there is still to be seen the remains of a Roman pavement of large blocks of black basalt, which time has rounded and so used, that they have taken a remarkable polish. Some miles further on we came to the fine town of Musselburgh, which, by its charming situation on the sea coast, its buildings and its steeple, seen through the trees, recall to the mind the small towns on the banks of the lakes of Switzerland.—The sandy shore extends again from Musselburgh to Prestonpans, which is at about three miles distance ; this large village, blackened by the smoke of the numerous manufactories of Salt, Vitriol, and Sulphate of Magnesia (Epsom-salts), &c. contains two thousand inhabitants. They make also a great quantity of harpoons for the Whale fishery. But what renders Prestonpans still more interesting to the traveller, is the remembrance of the battle here gained by Prince Charles Edward in 1745.

In continuing to follow the shore we arrived at Luffness, a charming little village, situated near the sea not far from Dirleton. We visited first the great plains of sand along the coast between Aberlady and Dirleton. These plains are composed of downs of sand ranged in parallel lines, which begin at a few hundred paces from the sea, and extend on the land side to a distance of a mile from the shore. A very great number of rabbits frequent these downs, the surface of which is covered with the *arundo arenaria.* The Eider, (*Anas mollissima*) a bird, the precious feathers of which are known under the name of eider-down, there brings up its young ; its nest, established in the midst of the reeds, on the naked sand, is composed of a greyish down, mixed with straw and small pieces of wood. The female lays five eggs, of a green olive colour, and of the size of a goose-

egg. During the time of sitting, she appears tame, and remains on her nest without paying hardly any attention to what is passing around her ; it is only when they are quite ready, that she resolves to quit her eggs. I saw one which had placed her nest at the mouth of a rabbit burrow, in such a manner, that in order to enter into its hole, the rabbit was obliged to pass under the eider's nest. These two animals lived together in the greatest harmony. At my approach, the rabbit alarmed, ran with precipitation to conceal itself under ground ; neither the noise it made in saving itself, nor my approach, appeared to frighten the eider, which made not the least movement. I stopped a long time to contemplate this bird, without my presence giving it the smallest uneasiness, although I was was within four or five paces of it.

The inhabitants of these coasts have never once dreamed of deriving advantage from a down by which the natives of Iceland carry on such a lucrative commerce. There are, nevertheless, on the shores, numbers of eiders sufficiently large to induce them to profit by such an enterprise : they might even, with care and necessary precaution, attract to the spot a larger quantity of these ducks, and would thus, in the end, attain the valuable object of rendering productive a completely barren soil, which will never be of any value for agriculture.

The Icelanders have the art of making the gathering of eider down so considerable a branch of commerce, that a barren rock, or uncultivated island, of however little extent it may be, becomes a treasure to a family, and is sold at a very high price, when they know how to assemble many birds upon it.

It would be necessary, in order to render this traffic as profitable as possible, to obtain every information from Iceland ; as it would be in the highest degree imprudent to make experiments on this subject, without due deliberation ; for a brood improperly deranged, would suffice to drive away all the ducks from the country where they had established themselves.

It appears to me, that among this species there are many more females than males ; as I have seen more than once, a single male eider swimming at the head of a troop of five or six ducks.

The Tadorna, the most remarkable of the species of duck, for the vivacity and agreeable distribution of the colours of its plumage, inhabits also these latitudes ; it makes its nest in the abandoned burrows of the rabbit, or perhaps in holes which it digs for itself in the sand. When the young ones are hatched, and when they are sufficiently strong to make the voyage, the male and female frequently conduct their offspring to the sea shore, far distant from their abode.

The children from the neighbouring villages profit by this circumstance, and advance, when the tide is low, in such a way as

to prevent the return of the young tadonas towards their nest, and if they can reach them before they arrive at the sea, they catch them very easily. By a stratagem to which I have been an eye-witness, the old tadonas frequently baffle their pursuers; for while the male flutters slowly about them and, feigning to be hurt, diverts their attention from his beloved offspring, by giving them the hope of taking himself, the female promptly gains the sea with her young; the male then, at full wing, swiftly flies away, rejoins his mate, and leaves the pursuers quite ashamed at being the dupe of a bird.

At some distance from these sands, towards the east, are four small, uncultivated, and uninhabited islands or rocks, very near the shore; these are Idria, Faidra, Lamb, and Craig-Leith: we took a boat to visit Faidra, the most remarkable of these islands. The rock is entirely composed of basaltic columns, of the most perfect regularity; some of these prisms rise vertically, others are more or less inclined, but the greater part are horizontal; some are even to be seen curved; the number of sides of the prisms, varies from three to eight; the most common are hexagonal. I may observe here, that these basaltic rocks are precisely opposite to those of Kincaid, of which I have before spoken, and they are separated by the whole width of the Forth, which is here nearly nine miles. A traveller who does not wish to visit the Hebrides, may, then, without going further than twenty-one miles from Edinburgh, see quantities of basaltic columns, which, less extensive, and less striking, it is true, than those of Staffa, may, however, give him a very just idea of this curious geological phenomenon.

The following day we arrived at the little town of North Berwick, situated precisely at the entrance of the gulf of Forth. North Berwick is a small sea-port, built at the foot of a hill named North Berwick Law, the elevation of which is 930 feet above the sea. From the summit of this isolated hill were displayed to our view the fine gulf of Edinburgh, and its various banks, the chain of the hills of Lammermuir, at the feet of which extends a vast and rich plain admirably cultivated. The hills which surround Edinburgh, the isle of May, in fine, the mass of Bass rock, which rises like a gigantic tower from the bosom of the deep, a mile and a half from North Berwick—these were the principal traits of this superb picture, constantly animated by the passage of vessels, and embarkations of every form and magnitude.

At the village of Castleton we took a boat, crossed the strait, and landed on the Bass rock at the only accessible point, viz. towards the western part. Scarcely had we arrived, when we were nearly stunned by the shrill and piercing cries of myriads of sea

birds; to whatever side we turned, we perceived them lying down, flying, and swimming; the air was literally obscured with them.

Of all the aquatic birds which inhabit the Bass rock, the most numerous are the soland geese. It was the season when these birds lay their eggs, and the smallest projections on the perpendicular sides of the rock, were occupied by their nests, which are so crowded, that they actually touch each other. Nothing can alarm this bird while sittnig on its eggs; a gun fired off close by its side, could not move it. The man who accompanied us, took one up in his arms, but it was no more afraid than if it had been a tame bird. These birds arrive on the Bass rock in February, but it is not till the end of May that they begin building their nests; they leave about the month of September, to seek the southern climates. It is not yet known in what country they pass the winter. There are only four rocks inhabited by these birds, through the whole extent of Scotland and its islands: viz. the Bass rock, from whence they spread over all the eastern coasts; the Ailsa rock, where those assemble which inhabit the west of Scotland; the Isle of St. Kilda, which affords a residence for those of the Hebrides; and the steep Fair Island, between the Orkneys and the Shetland isles, which serves as an habitation for the soland geese of these two groups of islands. Its food consists of herrings, mackarel, and pilchards. In the month of August, when the young are ready to quit their nests, they carry off a part of them for the Edinburgh market, where they are regarded as delicious game: about two thousand are taken away every year. The person charged to take them from their nests, suspends himself by a rope tied round his body; two men from the summit of the rock hold the end of it; with this feeble support, the courageous game-hunter lets himself down the whole length of the perpendicular sides of this enormous rock, and fearlessly contemplating the frightful abyss under his feet, and the sea, which rolls at 400 feet under him, he seizes the young birds in their nests, and throws them down into a boat which is placed at the foot of the rock. In this manner he makes the tour of the rock, which is about a mile in circumference, once or twice a week.

Few men are capable of supporting so terrible a proof of courage. The man who was for many years accustomed to this business, assured me that there were moments in which he could not regard the awful gulf beneath him without dismay; he told me also, that a stranger, who from curiosity wished to let himself down, was so seized with affright when he saw himself suspended from such a height, that he became completely deranged.

The weather was so favourable, and the sea so calm, that we were enabled several times to make the tour of the rock in a

boat, admiring how the inhabitants of this island of birds have profited by all the little corners to establish their abodes by stories one over the other. On this rock are to be seen the ruins of a strong wall, flanked with towers, the only remains of the Castle of Bass, which, before the invention of artillery, passed for a citadel of great force. Thus, in the war which took place in the middle of the 16th century, the English made fruitless efforts to render themselves masters of it; the reply of the Scottish commander to the summons of the English general, bears a character of originality which accords well with the situation of the fort and its resources.

The English, having arrived at the foot of the castle, wished to make an attempt to induce the governor to surrender: they accordingly offered him a considerable sum, to be distributed to the garrison; but they only received the following pleasant and ingenious reply: "Never has a man, loaded with so much gold, been able to climb a rock which is accessible only to the birds; I advise you, then, to make a better use of your gold, which you have great occasion for to support the war against the French; as for the rest,—the garrison, and the inhabitants of this aërial castle, will never want provisions while the birds take so great care to supply them with abundance." The soldiers of the castle, to the number of a hundred, actually had no other support than the fish which the Soland geese brought them at all hours, and no other fuel to warm themselves during the winter than the pieces of wood with which these same birds built their nests in the spring.

Although the castle of Bass has long since been destroyed, the place of governor still subsists; Sir Hugh Hamilton Dalrymple, of North Berwick, at present occupies it: besides the considerable profit which he derives from increasing the produce of the birds, this title gives him two votes for the election of a representative in parliament; so that these birds are better represented than many of the other inhabitants of Great Britain.

CHAPTER V.

Glasgow—Dumbarton Castle—Loch Lomond—Renton, &c.

Having a desire to visit Glasgow and Loch Lomond, we set out from Edinburgh, on the third of May; the weather was very bad, and an abundant rain appeared to be set in for the day. That which we saw of the country on the road, made us little regret what the

mists concealed from our view. Small miserable looking villages, a few country seats, the greater part uninteresting, were the only objects which presented themselves to our view, with large woods of fir and larch, which formed, on the summit of the hills, long regular lines, and in no way picturesque. The more we remove from Edinburgh, the more the country becomes barren and uncultivated, and soon we find ourselves in the midst of a vast and black heath, inhabited by quantities of *grouse* or *moor-game.*

By degrees, however, on approaching Glasgow, this sterile region gives place to cheerful meadows and luxuriant fields. Instead of a naked and deserted plain, pleasing little hills are presented to the view, covered with fine green turf, and adorned with trees and shrubs of all kinds; rivulets winding in the small valleys, which separate those hills, and forming into handsome cascades. The weather now cleared up, and on arriving by the eastern side, we enjoyed the fine view presented by the city of Glasgow.

Glasgow is a beautiful city, its streets are well laid out, and cut into right angles; the houses are elegant, and constructed of hewn stone; its situation, in the middle of a plain, is much less remarkable than that of Edinburgh; and although a great commerce, numerous manufactures, and a considerable population, animate this city, Edinburgh will always appear more striking to foreigners. It is therefore unnecessary to compare two cities which differ in so many respects. In order duly to appreciate the city of Glasgow, the stranger must visit in detail all its fine factories of cotton and stuffs of all kinds, and its manufactures, which rival the most flourishing of those in England; he must penetrate into the numerous work-shops, where those talents and industry are displayed, which, in this country, have brought commerce to so high a pitch of prosperity. Here we find, every day, some new inventions discovered, and instruments and machines, already known, brought to perfection. Those vast enterprises originate here, by which they hasten to apply to the mechanical arts the discoveries of physicians and chemists; enterprises which so eminently characterize the inhabitants of Great Britain.

If the activity, and the great number of manufactories in Glasgow, have caused this city to be compared to Manchester, we may also, with equal justice, put it upon a footing with Liverpool for the extent of its commercial relations with foreign countries. Although situated in the heart of the country, Glasgow possesses also the advantages of a sea port, owing to the fine river of the Clyde which runs through it; a river which, by its depth, its breadth, and the tranquillity of its course, is rendered navigable to vessels of considerable bulk.

Whilst Glasgow, in this manner, enjoys an entrance into the

Atlantic ocean, the canal which unites the rivers Forth and Clyde, opens a communication with the Firth of Forth, and consequently with all the countries of Europe, by the German ocean. Thus there are few commercial cities in Great Britain, London excepted, in which the commercial relations are so considerable.

Although Glasgow is principally indebted for its celebrity to its commerce, yet the sciences and liberal arts are cultivated with advantage, and the University of this city enjoys a well-merited renown in Europe.

It will be sufficient to cite Simson and Maclaurin in the Mathematics, and Dr. Reid in Moral Philosophy, to give an idea of the transcendent merit of the Professors, to whom this University has confided public instruction. Dr. YOUNG, who at present occupies the Greek chair, passes for one of the most profound scholars of Great Britain.

The system of education is here very different from that which is adopted in Edinburgh, and resembles more those of the English Universities. The students, of whom the number amounts to nearly four hundred, are subjected to a peculiar discipline, and are distinguished by long red robes, which they are obliged constantly to wear.

The college is a very ancient building, of a heavy and massive Gothic architecture. The interior courts and turrets, the angles of which are flanked, give it the resemblance of a prison, and its dreary aspect almost inspires a sentiment of pity for the students who are enclosed within its walls.

At a short distance from the college we remarked an edifice of elegant architecture, ornamented by a fine peristyle of the Doric order; it is there that is enclosed the anatomical cabinet of Dr. HUNTER. The Infirmary, situated in the most elevated part of the city, is of so fine an architecture that, as has been remarked, this vast building more resembles a Palace than an Hospital.

Near this is the Cathedral, perhaps one of the most ancient churches in Scotland, and one of those which the fanatic zeal of the puritans had the least ravaged. But it is not, certainly, one of the finest Gothic edifices which exist in this country; its appearance is massive, the ornaments of it are heavy, and the workmanship of the windows has nothing elegant or light about it. It was, however, with pleasure that we remarked, in the interior of the Cathedral, a handsome chapel, with painted window-glass, which has a very fine effect.

We were able to judge, on perambulating Glasgow, that the inhabitants were occupied with as much activity as in Edinburgh, in the embellishment and the enlargement of the city. During the last forty years, new streets and districts have been erected, and they are still going on improving; every where they are

building, and working after a regular plan ; it appears to me that the luxury of architecture is here carried to greater extent than in Edinburgh ; we remarked many more private houses ornamented with columns and pilasters.

Near the river Clyde, which runs under three fine bridges, is a very fine promenade, or rather a large park, covered with green turf, and shaded by groups of trees. They have erected a fine monument to the memory of Lord Nelson in the middle of this vast plain ; but scarcely had it been finished, when the lightning displaced many of the enormous blocks of stone of which it is composed. Glasgow is here displayed under the most favourable point of view ; the Clyde, which is not very large, runs gently between two banks, adorned with verdure ; it is much to be regretted that its waters are not clear, but their surface is constantly furrowed by a crowd of vessels and small craft, which ascend or descend the current of the river, and present, at all hours, the most animated spectacle.

After a short stay we quitted Glasgow with regret, and set out for Loch Lomond ; the weather was cold, and the sky covered with clouds. The country to the west of Glasgow is well cultivated, ornamented with fine lands, and handsome country seats, watered by the river Clyde, which winds in the midst of verdant meadows, and clusters of the finest trees. Near the village of Dalmuir, we passed by the grand canal which joins the gulfs of Forth and Clyde. Seeing only from the great road the sails and rigging of sloops, and small vessels which navigate in the canal, without being able to perceive the canal itself, it seemed as if these vessels were sailing in the midst of meadows and fields.

Arrived at the village of Friskyhall, we discovered the picturesque rock on which Dumbarton castle is situated ; it is an isolated mass which rises in the middle of a plain, the basis of which is washed by the Clyde. The nearer we approach it, the more the effect becomes striking : one might fancy seeing the famous rock of Gibraltar ; and in fact, those two isolated rocks have some analogy in their position. The small town of Dumbarton is built at a little distance from the rock, at the junction of the Clyde and the small river of Leven, which descends from Loch Lomond. Dumbarton is the capital of the county of the same name ; here the Lowlands terminate, and the Highlands commence.

At the inn where we alighted at Dumbarton, all was in movement to receive three of the Judges of the Court of Session, from Edinburgh, who were making their circuit in the western counties. These judges go successively to every capital of a county, in order to hold the assizes. Those who proceed to the Highlands, have generally much less occupation than those of

their colleagues, who are charged with the more populous and civilized counties of the Lowlands. The difference which exists between the number of criminal processes in the two parts of Scotland, must not be attributed alone to the population: it is a fact, that among the poor and wild inhabitants of those mountains, crimes are much less frequent than among the rich inhabitants of the plains. For several years the assizes have not had to pronounce on a single accusation of murder in the county of Argyle, the population of which is 75,700 souls.

We entered the castle of Dumbarton, conducted by one of the soldiers of the company of Veterans which compose the garrison of this fort; it is one of the places which, according to the treaty of Union of the two kingdoms, was to be maintained by the Scots. Its position, at the entrance of one of the principal valleys of the Highlands, and on the banks of the Clyde, which it commands, renders this fortress of sufficient importance to restrain the Highlanders of the west, in case of rebellion; and at the same time to protect the navigation of the river, the batteries of which are armed by twenty-one pieces of large cannon.

The ancient inhabitants of Caledonia knew so well how to fortify this steep rock, that, according to Boëce, Agricola, at the head of the Roman armies, was defeated before their entrenchments. There are some reasons for believing that this was also the place which, in Ossian, is designated under the name of Balclutha.

It was for a long time the capital of the tribe of Britons who lived between the walls of Antoninus and Severus. From thence proceeds the name of Dunbriton, or Dumbarton, (*the Fort of the Britons.*) The Saxon historians name it *Alcluydt.* In order to reach its summit we must cross a narrow passage among the rocks. An ancient bridge, formed by a single arch, as narrow as it is elevated, communicates from one rock to another, and when seen from below, presents a picturesque *coup d'œil.* The ruins of an ancient tower commands the summit of the rock, and from thence an immense extent of country is presented to the view. The Clyde is seen enlarging more and more, and winding among cheerful meadows, the eye follows its course to a great distance towards the west, where this river opens into a large gulf, which takes the name of the Firth of Clyde, and which greatly surpasses in extent the Firth of Forth. At a distance is perceived, on its southern banks, the cities of Port Glasgow and Greenock. A vast number of vessels sail along the waters of this charming bay, and the high mountains of Argyleshire terminate this fine landscape towards the west. If we turn towards the north, the city of Dumbarton is at our feet; the Clyde and the Leven sprinkle it with their waters, as different in colour as in volume. The Leven

rolls its clear and limpid waves like a rivulet of the Alps; the eye may follow its course to a great distance, and perceive the mountains which border Loch Lomond, from whence this river takes its source. We were prevented from enjoying this point of view in all its beauty by the thick clouds which obscured the summits of all these mountains.

On descending from the castle we were shown the place where WALLACE the deliverer,—the WILLIAM TELL of Scotland,—was made prisoner. The barracks are erected on the very spot, and an ancient sword is preserved, which is said to have belonged to the hero. We saw this antique and venerable weapon; it is exactly of the same form, and the same size, as the enormous double handed swords which are shown in the arsenals of Switzerland. Small pieces of unmounted cannon, supported against the wall, attracted our attention: "These cannons," said the old soldier, with a melancholy air, who attended us as guide,—"these cannons belonged to *our Charlie*," meaning Prince Charles Edward the Pretender; for whose memory many old men, in the mountains of Scotland, still preserve the most inviolable attachment.

On quitting Dumbarton we directed our steps towards the north, and followed the route to Inverary.

At the handsome village of Renton we saw a column of the Doric order, remarkable for its beauty, and bearing a long inscription. This monument has been erected to Smollett, who was born in the village. This writer, who was an honour to Scotland, was illustrious in more than one branch of literature; his continuation of Hume's History of England, assigns him a distinguished rank as an historian; and all the world are acquainted with his novels. Roderick Random, Peregrine Pickle, and Humphrey Clinker, are full of gaiety and originality; he has, in general, described the manners of the lower and ignoble classes of the people, and we may sometimes reproach him with a want of taste and delicacy, in the choice of his similes and expressions; but we cannot deny him great comic humour, and particular talent for caricature. Smollett has also distinguished himself in poetry.

At a little distance from Renton, we arrived on the waters of the beautiful Loch Lomond, and in following along its banks, its charming and numerous Isles were successively displayed to our view; there are some of all forms and dimensions; some, elevated and steep, appeared like deserted rocks: others are covered with woods, and serve as a retreat for roe-bucks and deer; others again rise only a little above the water, and are planted with trees and shrubs, distributed in groups and clusters. In short, every thing which Nature can present, both varied and picturesque, is found united in the scenes which the banks of this charming lake present to the enraptured view. But the season was not

sufficiently advanced to see the landscape in all its splendour; the trees were yet destitute of leaves, and the lofty mountain of Ben Lomond, the principal trait wanting to this picture, was entirely concealed by clouds. The road passes by Roesdue, the magnificent estate of Sir James Colquhoun, and near to this romantic lake. The small village of Luss is situated in a fine position by the side of the water, and at the foot of the lofty mountains. Ben Lomond rises on the opposite bank, and when the weather is favourable, it may be seen with great effect.

With the exception of the church and the inn, which are regularly built, we only saw, in perambulating the village, huts of an extraordinary construction; a stone wall, without cement, and not very high, forms the enclosure of these mean habitations, a very low door, and one or two small windows, admit the light of day, and serve at the same time to give vent to the smoke of a peat fire, burning in the middle of the only room which these houses contain. A thatched roof, grossly put together, covers these poor huts, which do not ill resemble our *chalets*, or cheese-houses, of the Alps. As we advanced towards the door of one of them, in order to examine the interior, a good old woman, who inhabited it, came before us, and begged us to enter; she offered us, with true Scottish hospitality, a glass of *whiskey;* to have refused would have disobliged, and to have offered money would have offended her. The reception which we should have met with from the rich and civilized inhabitant of an elegant cottage in the southern part of this isle, would have been very different. For myself, as a traveller, I infinitely prefer the wild huts of the Highlands, where the stranger is always welcome, to those farms which are so *comfortable*, that we can hardly see any thing but the outside.

Constrained to renounce our project of climbing Ben Lomond, towards the close of the day we mounted on one of the hills adjoining to Luss. From its summit, the appearance of the lake, and its numerous isles, on different planes, and at various distances, presented a fine spectacle. But our regards could not be turned aside from the wild mountains by which we were surrounded on the south and on the west; those elevated hills, entirely covered with green turf, and mixed with a black and dull heath, enclosed valleys still more dismal. One of them, Glen Molachan, struck us, by the extreme solitude and profound silence which seemed to reign over it.

This dreary valley, which appeared as the sojourn of death, descends by a rapid declivity between two mountains, and is covered with nothing but thickets of an obscure heath, and all that surrounds it, as far as the eye can reach, presents a similar appearance. A little brook runs at the bottom, and is partly con-

cealed under the heath. The night was approaching, the thick clouds which obscured the last rays of light, added fresh horror to this picture. A black lake, placed between the barren promontories and steep rocks, without the least appearance of culture or habitation, presented, towards the north, a point of view, at least as wild as that of Glen Molachan.

I cannot express the profound awe which I felt from this imposing scene of nature, in that ancient land, which is still presented to our eyes, such as it was seen and sung by Ossian and the ancient bards.

One might believe he heard, in the howling of the winds, the mystical and melancholy voice of the Scottish bard; contemplate with him the souls of his errant warriors, on the deserted heaths; or see with Shakespeare the infernal spirits plotting among themselves their dark projects against the human race, in those immense districts, abandoned by mankind; a Macbeth, loaded with crimes and remorse, hurrying over the deserted mountains, forming new projects of ambition, hatred, and vengeance, and every where finding nature in harmony with the dark thoughts of his soul.

Few sites, even in the wildest and most savage places of Switzerland, in the midst of the eternal ice of its valleys, the hoar frosts of its enormous mountains, have made a livelier impression on me than this first entry into the Highlands. It appeared to me, that I found in this dreary nature the secret of the wild and melancholy character of the inhabitants of these mountains, of their superstitions, their plaintive music, and that poetry which speaks to the imagination by the most brilliant images.

At Cardross we took a boat, and soon after reached Port Glasgow. This small sea-port, as well as that of Greenock, presents a very animated aspect. We may form an idea of the resources of the country, when two commercial cities are seen so near each other, without their proximity being at all detrimental to their industry. On the contrary, each of these cities gains every day more importance and extent; both depend upon Glasgow for the enterprises of commerce; and the astonishing prosperity of that great city, reflects its lustre upon the two minor ones. The largest vessels can enter into these ports, where they are unloaded, and the goods are forwarded to Glasgow in smaller ones.

Before reaching the village of Oldkirk, which is inhabited by sailors and fishermen, a very fine view of the bay of the Clyde presents itself; the direction of its banks has entirely changed; they had always run from south-east to north-west, as far as Greenock; now they extend from north to south, till they are out of sight.

From Oldkirk we continued our way along the water side. The

rocks which border it are elevated, and enclose profound grottoes. At every little distance are perceived the ruins of ancient castles, built by the Danes, on the summits of the rocks; these ruins, not very picturesque in themselves, produce effect only from their position. At the feet of the perpendicular rocks, and on the banks of the sea, are erected handsome country seats, equally remarkable for the elegance of their gardens, as well as for the beauty of their situation. New Glasgow is, of all these pleasure-houses, the most striking; on the banks of the bay of Wemyss, and at the foot of a hill covered with fine fir-woods, four friends, all merchants of Glasgow, have built four handsome little houses, exactly alike, almost contiguous one to the other, and each having a little garden. They have named this little colony New Glasgow, and have there established themselves with their families. Near these charming habitations, which present to the mind the idea of peace and happiness, stands the fine house of Mr. Wallace, which almost resembles a palace.

We continued our journey along these charming banks; the beauty of the evening, the mildness of the air, the calmness of the sea, which seemed only like a peaceful lake, every thing promised fine weather for the next day; and with this cheering perspective we arrived at the village of Largs. This place is celebrated in the history of Scotland by the battle which took place there in 1263, in which Alexander III., of Scotland, completely defeated Hacon IV., king of Norway, and drove the Norwegians and the Danes from this coast, which they had for a long time possessed.

The weather did not come up to our expectations; we were obliged to set out from Largs with a continual rain and violent wind. After travelling fifteen miles, very disagreeably, on frightful roads, we arrived at Saltcoats, much fatigued and completely drenched.

The small town of Saltcoats possesses nothing remarkable in itself; it is a small port, where the vessels of the neighbouring countries, and the ships arriving from Ireland, take shelter, when they are overtaken by a storm in the midst of the Firth of Clyde. A small number of manufactories of salt, soap, &c. are the only objects which, for a few hours, can attract the attention of the traveller, detained by contrary winds. The commerce of this city, in pit-coal, is very considerable. Mr. C——, the proprietor of the greater part of the mines in the environs, is also proprietor of the salt manufactory. Thus he is, in some measure, the soul of all the inhabitants of this city. His steam-engines, which he showed us, are in fine condition and of all dimensions. He has lately caused a very considerable one to be constructed, on

the principle of Mr. Watt, which greatly augments the energetic force of these valuable machines.

At the distance of a mile to the north of Saltcoats are seen the ruins of the ancient castle of Ardrossan, one of the forts which the Danes erected in such numbers, when they possessed this part of Scotland. The inhabitants are now occupied in building a small town in this place; many workmen are employed in constructing a large port. This enterprize will be of infinite utility in affording to vessels, going up or descending the bay, a shelter against bad weather; an advantage which formerly did not exist; for the small port of Saltcoats is not safe, and cannot admit large vessels. The construction of this port, undertaken by Lord Eglinton, is as expensive and difficult as it is useful; for the sea is strewed with rocks to a great distance.

The rain and westerly wind having abated, we quitted Saltcoats, and embarked on board the packet-boat, which serves as the communication between the Isle of Arran and the main land; the fineness of the weather, the serenity of the sky, the calmness of the sea, the air not even agitated by a breath of wind, would have afforded many charms to a poet, or sentimental novellist, but had little for us, who were anxious to arrive promptly at Arran.

It was in vain we used the oars, hoisted the sails at the least breeze, or profited by the slightest breath of wind, we could not advance; Saltcoats always appeared to us at the same distance. Seven hours were elapsed, and we had not sailed more than six miles. We enjoyed, however, the beauty of the view: on the north, the Isles of Bute and Combray appeared as low grounds, or small elevations above the water; on the west, the fine isle of Arran, with its high mountains, rocks, and bays; on the south, the unbounded extent of the Irish Sea, in the midst of which we saw, at a distance, the huge rock of Ailsa. This mountain is of a conical form, and so steep that, similar to the Bass rock, it is only inhabited by innumerable tribes of sea-birds. We saw, on another side, the banks of the county of Ayr, extending from north-east to south-east, and terminating by the perpendicular promontory known under the name of the Mull of Galloway.

We had already despaired of arriving at Arran that day, when one of the sailors announced to us that a north breeze had sprung up; he begged us to listen, we heard a hollow and confused murmur; a ray of deep blue bounded the sea towards the north; our hopes were speedily realized; a favourable wind swelled our sails, and after being so long immoveable, we felt ourselves transported with velocity on the waters, which now began to be agitated. Already the coasts of Ayrshire no longer appeared, but as light clouds which rise on the horizon; and we perceived, on the Isle of

Arran, a thousand minutiæ which, until then, we had not been able to discover. We distinctly saw the bay of Brodick, where we were about to enter, and the Isle of Lamlash, which rises like a mountain near the coast of Arran; soon after, we distinguished cultivated fields in the environs of Brodick; then the castle itself, and in the twinkling of an eye we were transported by a violent gale of wind into the bay of Brodick.

The boat cut through the waves with astonishing rapidity, and that sea, a little while ago so calm, now rolled in immense billows, and menaced, by its fury, to punish us for the murmurs we had vented against its tranquillity. Thousands of birds were swimming peaceably on the agitated sea, and, without being afraid of our boat, they often passed within pistol-shot of us. We cast anchor under the walls of the castle, after a passage of twenty-one miles, made in ten hours. The packet boat being unable to land, we were again obliged to brave the fury of the sea in a smaller one, before we reached the much desired shore of Arran, which we at length touched.

The administrator of the domains of the Duke of Hamilton, Mr. Lamont, (whose son was one of the passengers in our packet boat,) as well as the principal inhabitants of this part of the Isle, were on the shore; they waited with impatience the arrival of the vessel,—the sole communication which they had with the civilized world,—the packets sailing only once a week.

Scarcely had we set foot on land before we received an invitation from Mr. L. to dine with him the next day at the castle, which he inhabits. He saw in us the fellow-travellers of his son, and this was, to Scottish hospitality, a sufficient recommendation.

I was singularly struck, on disembarking, with the wild and desert aspect of the isle; we saw on all sides of the bay nothing but elevated mountains, covered with a black heath, and uncultivated valleys, or naked and barren rocks. On the southern banks of this bay, nothing at a distance was perceived but high rocks, with the tide beating against them, commanded by summits not less wild, and entirely abandoned by men. The storm which had driven us with so much rapidity, had also brought with it thick clouds, which, extending along the mountains, or enveloping their lofty heights, spread obscurity around us. The dark and menacing clouds were in harmony with the severe aspect of nature, still more imposing by the rolling of the waves, which dashed against the rocks of the shore.

Some miserable huts, scattered here and there, at great distances from each other, were the only objects which indicated to us that this Isle, however sterile it might be, was not altogether deserted. I had heard talk of a town of Brodick, where we

ought to land; I sought for it, but I saw only the castle. What was my surprise, when the people pointed out to me, on the banks of the shore, four or five small huts, grossly covered with thatch, and difficult to be distinguished from the rocks and the land: this, I was told, was the town of Brodick,—the capital of the Isle of Arran. A fishing village would have been a superb city compared to this Brodick, which resembles the most miserable establishment of a horde of Laplanders.

If such is the metropolis, what must be the remote towns and villages? This was our first and melancholy idea. However, this disagreeable impression wore off, when we had been conducted into a house of pretty good appearance, which we had not yet perceived. It was a small inn, where we soon found we should not be so badly off as we had at first imagined.

Impatient to have an idea of the surrounding country, we profited by what remained of the day, in order to travel across a plain covered with furze, (*ulex Europeus*) towards a small grove of fir-trees, called Brodick-wood, near which many interesting minerals were to be found. A large stone, planted vertically in the ground, on the borders of the wood, attracted our attention. It was one of those blocks which were placed by the ancient inhabitants of these mountains over the graves of their chiefs and most illustrious warriors. This huge monument, situated in so wild a place, could not fail to inspire a lively interest. We wished we could penetrate the profound obscurity which veils those remote periods, and interrogate the simple monuments of a nation whose history is absolutely unknown to us.

CHAPTER VI.

Isles of Arran and Bute, with remarks on the Climate, Agriculture, and Manners of the Inhabitants.

The next day, being Sunday, Mr. Lamont came early, to conduct us on horseback to the church of Lamlash, a village about seven miles from Brodick. The clouds, which were not so low on the mountains as they were the evening before, permitted us to see better the environs of the bay of Brodick. This fine extent of water, opening towards the east, is bounded on the south by the high hills of Dunfioun and Dundou, whose summits are joined, by a gentle declivity, to the elevated rocks which border the shore. On the north

it has for its limits, mountains, with woods of oak planted at their base, and their summits covered with abundance of heath. Above these mountains the peak of Goatfield, (the highest summit of Arran,) raises its grey and barren head. The bay is terminated on the west by a large flat, sandy shore, near which Brodick is built. A little plain, of a mile in extent, in a great part covered with heath and furze, separates the sea from the high hills which close the bay on the west, and which are cut out into excavations in the form of a funnel, named Glen-coy, Glen-sherrig, and Glen-rosa.

The word *glen* is not absolutely synonymous with that of *valley*, although both indicate an excavation in the middle of a group of mountains; for, while a valley is a void space enclosed between two mountains, or two chains of mountains, joined by their feet, and parallel one to the other; a glen is a cavity in form of a funnel, having only an opening on one side, and surrounded by elevated and steep hills. It is generally towards the sea, as the lowest place, that the glens open, and from that entrance run small brooks, formed by spring, or by rain waters. The total absence of trees and habitations, and the sterility of these glens, give a horrible and desolated aspect to the Island.

Mounted on the small horses of the country, we rode on towards the south, after again passing near the tomb of the ancient chief. We pursued our way by a foot-path, the only road regularly traced which exists in the Isle. Arrived upon an eminence, we turned round to admire the beauty of the prospect presented by the bay of Brodick,—which extended beneath us,—the mountains which bounded Glen-rosa, and Goatfield, which commanded all the surrounding objects. We soon lost sight of this fine view, and entered into a winding valley, which, as well as the hills which bounded it, were entirely covered with turf and heath.

In these solitary places grazed some lean sheep, half stripped of their fleece, with cows of a very small size,—the greater part of the unhorned kind, which is so common in Scotland. After having for some time followed along this dreary valley, we arrived on an elevated spot, from whence we discovered another large and spacious bay. That of Lamlash presents a more open and agreeable aspect than that of Brodick; it is not, like the latter, surrounded with high mountains, but hills, which lower by degrees towards the south. At the mouth of the bay rises, like a mountain, a steep island, of three miles in length, and one in breadth: it is called the Isle of Lamlash. This small isle presents, on all sides, nothing but perpendicular rocks, composed of basaltic columns, and pierced with caverns, which, it is said, for their beauty, may be compared to the famous grotto of the Isle of Staffa. We saw, also, the ruins of a hermitage, formerly the habitation of St. Molios, who was sent by St. Columban,

whose disciple he was, in order to convert to Christianity the wild inhabitants of Arran; he fixed his abode in the Isle of Lamlash, to which, from that time, they gave the name of the Holy Island. The largest vessels find a good anchorage in this bay, which is sheltered from the winds by the surrounding rocks; and the little isle is a barrier which arrests the progress of the furious waves, brought by the easterly winds.

The village of Lamlash, situated at the end of the bay, has a better appearance than that of Brodick; it consists of a range of small houses, neatly built of stone, and covered with slate. The church is not large, and we found it well filled. As there are only two parishes in all the island, the inhabitants attend every Sunday, to hear Divine Service, although their dwellings are many miles off. Here the Protestant religion is celebrated in all its simplicity. The minister, in a small pulpit, without any ornament, was simply clad in black, without a robe, or any exterior mark of his calling. His auditory was composed of Highlanders and sailors, with their families. The zeal of these poor men, in coming so far to fulfil their religious duties, their thoughtful and serious countenances, the devotion with which they heard the sermon, the simplicity of their pastor, the air of interest and of kindness with which he addressed his flock, who appeared as one family,—the whole of this scene was truly patriarchal. We returned to Brodick, after hearing two sermons, one in English, the other in Gaelic; the latter in an idiom which, to a foreign ear, appears the rudest and most barbarous language, must, nevertheless, be most useful in a country where the English language is so very little used.

The castle of Brodick is an ancient building, constructed on the ruins of an edifice still more ancient, which appears to have been built by the Danes, and of which some remains are to be found. It is here that the Duke of Hamilton resides, when he visits this isle, a very great part of which belongs to him; but he comes very seldom, and then only for the pleasures of the chace. The administrator of his domains resides there constantly, and is, in some measure, the governor of Arran.

We employed another day in travelling over that part of the island situated between the bays of Brodick and Lamlash, directing our steps towards the small village of Corygills. From thence we mounted to the top of Dundou, or Black hill, a name given to it on account of the dark appearance of the heath which covers it. At a little distance rises another hill, called Dunfioun, signifying that of Fingal.

The view from the top of Dunfioun is very remarkable. Placed on the most elevated point of the promontory, we could, at the same time, see the two bays between which it advances. The

one is wild, and thick set on all sides with high mountains, peaks, and ridges of granite; the other is more agreeable, and of a more varied aspect, bordered with fine hills and cultivated valleys. A small isle, resembling a mountain covered with pasturage, rises at the entrance of this bay. Casting our eyes towards the north, we saw, at a distance, the isles of Bute and Combray, issuing, as it were, from the bosom of the deep.

After descending by steep rocks to the banks of the sea, we pursued the windings of its shores, admiring the variety of the points of view which they presented. The coast was covered with sea and land birds,—herons, sea-gulls, and birds that live upon oysters, (*hematopus ostralegus*); the latter bird, which, from its black and white plumage, bears also the name of the sea magpie, derives the name of oyster-bird from the habit which it has of picking with its long beak the shells which are attached to the rocks. These birds being unaccustomed to the sight of man, are not in the least afraid, and did not fly away at our approach. Nothing can better prove the deserted and solitary state of this isle than such a fact, which has been observed in places unfrequented by man.

We pursued our way along the banks of the sea, which, in general, offered little variety; the shore is bounded by rocks covered with small trees; little streams precipitate themselves in cascades from their summits, and roll afterwards into the waters of the sea. Behind these rocks are seen the high heights of Goatfield, and other mountains not less barren, which present an infinite variety of grand and picturesque forms.

Sea-calves frequent these shores; I discovered an animal of this kind swimming not far from the bank. Its head resembled, altogether, that of a large dog; I could not see the rest of its body, which was entirely immersed in the water. At the noise which we made, it plunged into the sea and disappeared.

We perceived some huts at great distances from each other, inhabited by poor farmers, who, with much trouble, cultivate a small number of acres of a dry and barren sand. The village of Currie appears less miserable; we remarked one or two well-built houses, belonging to proprietors in Ayrshire. They come in the summer for the sea-bathing, and to enjoy a pure and invigorating air. There is a small port, where barks enter for the purpose of being freighted with lime-stone, a considerable quantity of which is worked in the quarries of the environs.

After passing Currie we continued to follow, for some time, along the banks of the sea, enjoying a near view of the Isle of Bute, from which we were only separated by a defile of five or six miles in breadth, and seeing at a distance the small isles of Combray.

Having arrived at Loch-Ranza, we saw a house of good appearance, which was said to be the inn. The host was previously announced to us, as a man remarkable for his originality; he had cultivated, no one knew how, a taste for geology; he composed verses, was a musician,—a composer even, without neglecting the labours which his small farm required, and fishing, which occupied a part of his time. We were eager to enter into the house; but the interior was far from corresponding with the outside; every thing was dirty, and in the greatest disorder. The room we were introduced into, was at the same time a sleeping and a drinking room: the stone flags were all loose and full of holes, half of the window was broken, and currents of freezing air penetrated from all parts. It was there, however, we found Mr. Cowie, our host, busy in drinking a bottle of whiskey with the doctor of the isle, who was making the tour of his patients. The latter, whom we had already seen at Brodick, had informed Cowie of our arrival; thus the moment he saw us, he arose, and came with eyes sparkling with joy, to invite us to see his minerals; and without even thinking of preparing a fire, or any refreshment for us, he had already commenced a geological dissertation.

There was nothing in the house, and it was necessary to send a considerable way off to gather turf for fuel. An old woman, who wished to entertain us with distinction, gave herself an incredible movement, mounted and descended the stair-case, spoke without ceasing, and brought us—nothing. It was a frightful noise; and notwithstanding so much eagerness, we could not obtain what we demanded. In fine, fatigued with so much bustle, we left the inn, begging Mr. Cowie to show us what the environs possessed as most interesting. But this great man, who would not permit his philosophical pursuits to encroach upon his rustic duties, begged us to allow him to repair a cart, before giving himself up to the study of mineralogy. We did not wait long; he conducted us a route as interesting for the phenomena of natural history which it presented, as for the beauty of its scenery.

The small lake of Ranza, where we coasted along, is formed by the sea at the mouth of the river of that name; it is partly separated from the ocean by a narrow tract of land, above which rises a square tower, in ruins, which once formed part of a castle of the kings of Scotland. This lake forms a natural port, where small vessels may anchor with perfect safety. Having gained the banks of the sea, we found ourselves in that part of the isle of Arran which advances most to the north. The setting sun tinged the waters with the most brilliant colours; the hills, covered with a light vapour, were adorned with golden clouds; a tint of a

fine violet reigned on the mountains of Argyle, which we saw to the north, and in the midst of which we easily distinguished Loch-Fine. All was there so calm and serene that we could hardly quit this fine view; and on returning to our village we kept turning round at every instant; so much did we enjoy this enchanting picture.

It was almost night when we reached the inn, and nothing was yet prepared. No provisions could be procured. We sent Cowie to throw his net into the lake; he was successful, and brought us back some flounders,—a flat-fish of the soal kind. Shortly after we heard our host sounding his violin, to let us know he was no stranger to the fine arts. Having begged him to come nearer to us, he came without much pressing, and played several Scottish airs, lively or plaintive as we required of him. He played powerfully, but made no scruple as to the justness of the sounds. He next offered to entertain us with a Highland dance: he called his two daughters, who were nothing less that handsome; they came, bare-footed, as are, in general, all the women of the isle, and began to dance, with their brother and our host. The latter was distinguished for the variety and singularity of his steps, and by a certain natural grace, which we could not have expected from a native of this savage isle. I cannot say as much of the other dancers, although Cowie assured us his daughters had received lessons in dancing.

On this occasion I learned a very singular fact, which has often been confirmed to me since, viz. that in the Highlands there are itinerant dancing-masters, who, from time to time, make the tour of the isles and mountains, in order to give lessons to the inhabitants, even of the lowest order. As to Cowie, whom we plied well with whiskey, he was ready to leap for joy; not content with scraping with all his might on his violin, he stamped with his feet, hallooed, and made a frightful noise. In fine, tired with all this bustle, we took leave of the company. It well required the fatigue of the day to be able to sleep in the miserable beds which were prepared for us.

The weather changed during the night; it had rained, and the summits of the rocks were covered with snow; thick clouds partly concealed them, and it blew a very violent south wind; the sea was greatly agitated. Our hosts appeared uneasy for one of their sons, who was to return from Cantyre in a little boat.

Before quitting the north of the isle we wished to see the mountain of Tornidneon, situated two miles south-east from Loch-Ranza, and at the entrance of Glen-Isnabirach. Cowie offered to accompany us, and we had scarce left the house before he had recited a series of verses of his own composition. These verses, in which he described the neighbouring rocks and moun-

tains, indicated a sentiment for the beauties of nature, and a germ of poetry, which, with cultivation, might have acquired a certain reputation for the author. However, our poet was not quite at his ease, he appeared restless, and never ceased turning his eyes towards the sea; we in fact distinguished, from that quarter, a very small boat struggling against the violence of the winds and waves, without being able to land. We saw the youth in it, several times endeavour to approach the bank, and afterwards abandon the attempt as impracticable. At length, by force of labour, he succeeded in entering into the small lake: then Cowie was fully tranquillized.

We climbed up the rocks, in order to examine well the veins of granite which they enclosed; and after mounting as high as it was possible, we descended again to Loch-Ranza, much amused with the geological reasonings of our host, who took a warm part in the grand quarrel between the Wernerians and the Huttonians.

The rain still increased: we had to march for seven hours before reaching the only habitation where we could find a lodging, in all this part of the island. During eighteen miles the banks presented an uninterrupted succession of small rocks, on which, from time to time, some small villages were perceived. It is here that agriculture appears to be best understood. Not only have the summits of the rocks been cleared and cultivated, but even the sands between the sea and the banks, at present display the appearance of well cultivated fields.

The inhabitants were occupied in agricultural labours, some sowing rye, others planting potatoes; the culture of which, admirably adapted to the soil, and to the climate of the country, is an invaluable resource for the poor insulated inhabitants. We frequently quitted the coast, in order to go through the villages, built on the tops of hills which bound it; the inhabitants, little accustomed to see strangers, took us for custom-house officers; thus we saw them flying before us, and shutting up, at our approach, all their huts in which they had established private distilleries of whiskey, which are prohibited by law. We were much concerned to see so much inquietude among these poor people. Had they known how much the purport of our journey was foreign to what they dreaded, we should have seen them eager, as they are every where else in this good country, to give us the most hospitable welcome.

Arriving at the foot of rocks, at a distance from all habitation, we stumbled by accident on the depôt of all the contraband. In a small cavern, the entrance into which was covered with briars, were ranged thirty or forty casks of whiskey, destined to be transported, during the night, on board a vessel anchored at a little distance. Some very ancient iron lances were lying at the mouth

of the grotto; they were the arms used by the smugglers in case of attack. Raising our eyes, we perceived, on the top of the rocks, a troop of men who, with eager looks, were attentively watching all our movements. These were the proprietors of the whiskey. We hastened to calm their uneasiness, by retiring without touching the depot; but no doubt these unfortunate people, seeing their enterprize discovered, expected their casks to be seized before the close of the day.

At the sight of this solitary cave, of those arms, of the men in ambuscade in the rocks, it seemed to us as if we had fallen into the cavern of the forty thieves; and in fact, every where else but in this wild spot, this rendezvous of smugglers would have been considered as a receptacle for brigands.

In order to abridge our route, our guide conducted us through marshes and turf pits, into which we stumbled at every instant. Often also ditches full of water, of considerable breadth, and more than eight feet deep, barred our way; we were obliged to clear them, at the imminent risk of falling in; however, we were nimbler or happier than we imagined, and we reached the village of Shiskin, or Shedog, without accident, where we found a tolerable Inn, established in a hunting house of the Duke of Hamilton. We were completely drenched, both by the rain which had never ceased to fall during the twenty-one miles which we had just made, and by the water of the stream which we had crossed. Although harassed with fatigue, after some moments repose we amused ourselves by hearing music. It was said there was a celebrated *Piper* in the village; I had never heard the instrument in its native country, that is to say, in the mountains. We sent our guide to invite this Orpheus of the North to entertain us with the harmonious sounds of his *bagpipe;* he soon brought in a tall and meagre figure, who, with his bagpipe under his arm, placed himself in a corner of the room, awaiting our signal. The order was given, and blowing vigorously with his bagpipe, there issued sounds capable of deafening the most intrepid amateur of this wild instrument. Afterwards, he successively played *pibrocks*, or warlike marches of the tribes; *laments*, or complaints for the death of the chiefs and heroes; and lastly, *reels*, or Highland dances. Those of the Inn recognizing the airs of the dance, flew to join in it. The bagpipe made such a noise, that it was impossible, not only to hear each other, but even to hear an unfortunate drunkard who burst open the door in order, notwithstanding all we could do, to join the party. This animated dance, the singular steps of our guide, the lengthened mien of the *Piper*, seated gravely in a corner of the room, formed a most grotesque picture.

The *Piper* of Shiskin learning we were about to visit a famous

cavern called "King's Cave," begged permission to accompany us, and marching before, he played such wild airs as made all the natives sally out of their huts, surprised to hear these warlike marches. We reached the village of Drumodoon, and immediately came to the magnificent promontory of that name.

After having studied the composition of the rocks which form the promontory of Drumodoon, we arrived at King's Cave, a place equally celebrated in popular traditions, and in the history of Scotland, for having been the habitation of Fingal, and the place of refuge for King Robert Bruce. On the walls of the cavern some figures are rudely cut in the rock; one seems to represent a cross, and the other a human figure in the act of prayer or adoration. Tradition attributes the execution of these figures to the people who lived in the island at the time that Fingal inhabited this cave, when he came to Arran to enjoy the pleasures of the chace. But how could the ancient Caledonians, destitute of all knowledge of Christianity, represent the adoration of the cross? It appears to me much more probable, that the early Scottish christians celebrated their religion in these retired places, which they chose for their temples; and that St. Molias, preaching the christian religion to the wild natives of Arran, offered to their veneration these symbols of redemption. What is more certain is, that Robert Bruce for some time concealed himself in this cave, when pursued by the English army by whom he had been dethroned, and was obliged to fly to the Isle of Arran. From thence is derived the name of the King's Cave.

Before quitting the Isle of Arran, it remains for me to state here some observations which will serve to make this interesting island better known.

The Isle of Arran, with the Islands of Bute and Combray, situated also in the gulf of Clyde, form the county called Buteshire. By a singular clause in the Act of Union of the two kingdoms, the county of Bute, conjointly with that of Caithness, which is at a great distance, and situated quite to the north of Scotland, elected a representative in Parliament, taken alternately in each of the two counties.

The extent of Arran is thirty-three miles from north to south, and sixteen and a half from east to west. Its distance from Saltcoats, on the coast of Ayrshire, is about twenty miles. A mail packet, which crosses once a week, is the only regular communication between these two points. Although so near two counties, where commerce and agriculture are flourishing, and where civilization makes such astonishingly rapid progress, Arran remains wild and uncultivated. Its still semi-barbarian inhabitants have few relations with their neighbours, and never seem to think of increasing their welfare and their substance by labour.

Thus they are seen to day in the same state in which they were many centuries ago. We must chiefly attribute so marked a drawback in civilization to the sterility of a soil, covered with heath and marshes, in every place that is not occupied by rocks; to the coldness and humidity of the climate; as well as to the violent winds, which, blowing almost continually in these regions, render the sea boisterous and nearly impracticable during a great part of the year.

The Duke of Hamilton, the Marquis of Bute, and Mr. Fullarton, of Kilmichael, are the only proprietors of this country. All the other inhabitants are the tenants of these proprietors, and none of them possess either the soil which they cultivate, or the houses wherein they dwell. The Duke of Hamilton possesses the greatest part of the Island, and by a remnant of the feudal system, his steward, or factor, established in the Castle of Brodick, renders justice in his name on matters of police, or on processes of minor importance. The produce or annual rent of the island is valued at no more than 4000l. sterling, a very small sum in proportion to the extent of country. But such is the effect of the climate, that the productions of this miserable island hardly suffice to support its feeble population, which is somewhere about 6000 souls; whilst Barbadoes, equal in all its dimensions to the Isle of Arran, but situated under a sky where the sun sheds his liveliest lustre and invigorating warmth, maintains a large city, numerous towns, exports in considerable fleets the immense surplus of its precious productions, and supports a population of 20,000 whites and 100,000 negro slaves.

The wild beauties displayed by nature in the Isle of Arran, the variety of views which are presented at every pace, render the aspect of that almost deserted country as interesting to the painter as to the naturalist. But the difficulty of travelling in the interior of the Isle, is the cause why it has only yet been visited by so small a number of travellers.

There is not, in the whole island, a road where carriages might pass. Although the paths are in the most pitiable state, they are still sufficiently good for those who travel on foot, which certainly would be the most agreeable mode, if we were not, at every step, arrested in our progress by streams formed by the mountain torrents.* The inhabitants know very little of the use of bridges. There exists only one in Arran, near Brodick; it is a miserable small wooden bridge, where we can only pass on foot. In place of bridges, large blocks of stone are thrown at equal distances in

* Since my journey into Scotland, I have learned that roads are cutting in the Isle of Arran, and that public attention is successfully directed to the means of meliorating the situation of the inhabitants.

the streams, where, by leaping from one to the other, we may chance to get across dry footed. Very often, however, these blocks are covered by the water, and are in some places so pointed, that it is with difficulty we can sustain our equilibrium. Thus it rarely happens that, in leaping from one stone to the other, we do not fall into the water.

The inhabitants, of both sexes, are generally ugly, but the men are well made, strong, and robust; the laborious life which they lead, by necessity, inures them to fatigue; the women themselves partake all the labours of agriculture. Their language is Gaelic, the ancient idiom of the Caledonians and Bards, but it is pretended that its original purity has been altered by a mixture of English words. We find, however, few inhabitants who can speak English. Although preserving still the language of their forefathers, they have changed the picturesque and military costume of the Highlanders, for a dress more appropriate, perhaps, to the climate and their mode of living. All the men are at present clothed like sailors, with a short jacket and large trowsers of a blue cloth, made by the women in the island. These insulated inhabitants possess all the qualities which distinguish the Highlanders; they have still that courageous and enterprising spirit, that attachment to their country, and above all, that generous hospitality which has for many ages honoured this nation. There does not exist in Europe, perhaps, a people who have preserved, in greater purity, the manners and customs of the most ancient times, than the inhabitants of the Isle of Arran.

It is, however, melancholy to see hospitality, that precious and amiable virtue of semi-barbarians, about to be sacrificed to the cruel vexations of Custom-house officers. Abusing the facility accorded to strangers of entering into their cottages, they introduce themselves under that privilege, but for the purpose of seizing whiskey, the making of which, the sole branch of industry which these poor people have, being severely proscribed. Already continually alarmed at the sight of strangers, whom they take to be Custom-house officers, the inhabitants shut their doors as soon as they perceive them; and if this practice continues, we shall soon see that hospitality renounced which, on account of this cruel system, has become, to them, the source of so many dangers.

The English government, with a view of preventing illegal distillation, have established very heavy duties on the entry of barley into the Isle, on the exporting of whiskey, and on the establishment of a distillery. But the inhabitants, with whom this traffic is the principal means of subsistence, being unable to purchase the privilege of having a distillery, and to pay taxes for the importing of barley, are compelled to resort to smuggling the grain, and distilling it secretly in their own huts. They afterwards

transport the whiskey, which is produced from the grain, in small vessels which sail during the night into the most remote and solitary creeks of the island.—New troubles, new inquietudes for these poor islanders, whose lives are already so miserable, and exposed to so many dangers.

I shall terminate my remarks on Arran by a short anecdote, which will serve to depict the still wild spirit which prevails among the inhabitants of that Isle.

While we were on our tour, a tall well-made man, of a robust appearance, entered into conversation with our guides. "Do you see that man," said one of them to us, "he is the strongest man in the Island, and of a vigour that no one can resist; one day that he had been invited to a wedding, a dispute arose between two of the guests, and by degrees the others took part in it: they began to fight, and this man, who was generally of a mild character, endeavoured to restore peace, but seeing he could not succeed, he was seized by a movement of anger, and launching into the midst of us," continued my guide with a tone of admiration and emphasis; "he fought alone against all, *and killed the half of the wedding.*"*

It was not without regret that we quitted Arran, its hospitable inhabitants, its deserted glens, its barren mountains, the solitary tombs of its heroes, and the wild beauties of nature, after having passed ten interesting days in the Island.

The passage from Brodick to the town of Rothesay, in the Isle of Bute, where we were going, is twenty-one miles, and we sailed at the rate of seven miles an hour; thus in three hours we reached the southern part of Bute.

I was struck with the great difference which exists between this Island and the one we had just left, relative to the aspect of the country, the climate, productions, the inhabitants, and even their dwellings. Instead of the cold air and dreary aspect of Arran, I found a mild climate, a rich vegetation, the finest green meadows enamelled with flowers which perfumed the air, and rocks covered with various shrubs and handsome eglantines. I soon arrived near the superb estate of Mount Stewart, belonging to the Marquis of Bute. There the beautiful gardens are surrounded with trees of every kind, extending their branches as far as the waters of the lake. A palace of the most elegant architecture is erected on the summit of a hill covered with green turf, amidst groups of charming shrubs and forests of lofty trees. The birds of spring fly about in thousands in these woods, which resound with their varied

* The word *kill* must not be taken in a literal sense, it means to knock down; the Scottish and Irish peasants frequently employ the word in this sense, as well as the Savoyards, who complain of having been assassinated two or three times.

warbling. My ears, for some time, accustomed only to hear the discordant cries of sea birds, the mournful air of the cuckoo, or the harsh voice of the eagle, were now, as well as my eyes, regaled with this sudden change. This estate gives to the eldest son of the Marquis of Bute the title of Lord Mount Stewart.

In pursuing my route, I saw with pleasure the richness of this Island, the air of comfort and prosperity of the inhabitants, the fertile fields of corn, potatoes, and turnips, the beauty of the cattle, the elegance of the houses, and cleanliness of the cottages.

Advancing towards the north, I arrived soon after on an eminence, and looking downwards, I saw on the banks of the sea an extremely handsome little town, surrounded with gardens, with a fort, two piers, and handsome buildings, evidently destined for manufactures. It was the capital of the Isle of Bute, the town of Rothesay.

It is delightful to see the order and cleanliness which reigns throughout this handsome little town, the animated aspect which it presents, and the busy and active air of its inhabitants, the number of whom does not exceed 2500. The houses are low, white, and covered with slate. The port was filled with trading vessels from all the surrounding parts of Scotland.

I visited the ruins of the ancient Castle of Rothesay. There only remains a massive tower, entirely covered with ivy, which grows here with incredible vigour. Formerly inhabited by sovereigns, this fortress sustained several sieges, and was at last burnt in 1685, by the Marquis of Argyle. The Marquis of Bute still preserves the title of hereditary keeper of this Palace, which his ancestors had for a long time inhabited.

The Inn where we put up did not correspond with the fine appearance of the town. The dinner was bad, and every thing contributed to render our stay insupportable. A dancing master had there established a school, and the house resounded with the discordant sounds of his bad violin. To add to the noise, Cowie, the innkeeper of Loch-Ranza, was in the room adjoining to ours; he had arrived from Arran with his son, for the purpose of selling slates and fish; having finished their market, they were spending the day at the Inn, and while they were soaking themselves with whiskey, they were engaged in endless discussions, making the most frightful noise. We hastened to quit these turbulent scenes, to enjoy the beauty of the evening on the banks of the sea.

The inhabitants of Bute appear as different from those of Arran as are the physical constitution and the climate of these two Islands. They are Lowlanders, and of the same race as all the inhabitants of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and the southern and eastern counties of Scotland. They do not speak the Gaelic language, but the Scottish dialect of the English. The inhabitants of

Bute are, in general, better clothed, cleaner, and more laborious than those of Arran. They understand agriculture and commerce better, and their communications with the main land are much more frequent. A packet-boat sails daily from Rothesay for Greenock.

But if they have gained in civilization and in industry, they have, perhaps, lost the qualities which render the character of the Highlanders so remarkable,—I should even say poetical. The airs of their ancient bards do not excite among them that enthusiasm for the exploits of their ancestors, and that chivalric and enterprising spirit which reigns among the Scottish Highlanders. They have not so great a degree of that curiosity which proceeds from a desire to be instructed and to enlarge the sphere of their ideas, and that vivacity of mind and imagination which is found even among the poorest of the Highlanders.

We find a difference in the reception of strangers; and although the inhabitants of Bute, as well as all Scotsmen, still possess the virtue of hospitality in an eminent degree, they have, like the Lowlanders in general, borrowed from their English neighbours a little more reserve and coldness at a first interview.

Before the departure of the packet-boat, we had time to ascend a hill to the west of Rothesay, from whence we enjoyed a very fine view of a great part of the island, the town, its gardens, its port, the fine bay covered with vessels, and the rich cultivation of the environs. We were singularly struck with the contrast of this picture, where all is life and animation, and the wild and solitary perspective which we contemplated, the evening before, from the top of the elevated mountain of Goatfield.

At eleven we got on board the packet, and after a passage of ten hours we arrived at Greenock; from whence we took the mail to Glasgow, passing the town of Paisley, which is agreeably situated on an eminence, and renowned throughout Scotland for its flourishing manufactories. In the evening I went to the theatre of Glasgow; it is a fine edifice, but a fault in the construction of the interior prevents the audience from properly hearing the actors.

Having again taken the mail, I arrived, on the 21st of May, in Edinburgh, perfectly pleased with a journey which, in every respect, much surpassed my expectations.

CHAPTER VII.

Morayshire—the Town of Elgin—Elgin Cathedral, &c. &c.

Elgin, the capital of the county of Moray, is situated 68 miles to the west of Aberdeen. It is a small town, consisting of 4000

inhabitants, and built on the banks of the river Lossie, in the midst of a plain without trees, little cultivated, and of a dull appearance. The city itself is ancient, the houses are well built with stone; some, belonging to rich individuals, are surrounded with beautiful gardens.

Elgin was burnt in 1336, by Edward III. King of England, while marching with Edward Baliol against the partizans of Bruce. The churches and houses belonging to the ecclesiastics were spared in the general destruction. The city was, until the reformation, the seat of the Bishop of Moray and his Chapter. The ruins of the magnificent cathedral of Elgin are the only objects worthy of fixing the attention in this city, which has been greatly despoiled of its ancient splendour.

The cathedral, founded in 1221 by André de Moray, is situated in the middle of the city; they had, originally, the idea of building this edifice near the episcopal castle, the ruins of which are still to be seen towards the little lake of Spinie, three miles from Elgin. To judge of it from the fine remains saved from the destructive fanaticism of Knox and the early reformers of Scotland, this church, in its original state, must, from the grandeur of its dimensions, and the beauty of its architecture, have surpassed the finest cathedrals of Great Britain, without even excepting that of York, so much boasted of by the amateurs of the Gothic style. That which now remains of this superb edifice are, two elevated towers, which surmount the *façade* of the west, and between which the door of entrance is still to be seen; it is also a portion of the choir; the grand and beautiful window on the eastern side, which closes the choir of the church; the chamber of the Chapter, and some of the isolated lateral windows. Like all cathedrals, this one was constructed in form of a cross; the principal branch was 246 feet in length, royal measure; and 33 in breadth; the transversal branch of the cross was 107 feet long. At the commencement of the 18th century, there was still to be seen the high tower, in the middle of the church, destined for the steeple; its elevation was 185 feet; in 1711 it fell down entirely, and the interior of the church is now strewed with its fragments. The whole cathedral was formerly covered with lead. By an Order of the Council at Edinburgh, this lead was carried away, and intended to be sold to defray the expenses of the army. But as the vessel which was to carry it to Holland perished in the Bay of Aberdeen, the zealous Catholics did not fail to see in this shipwreck the finger of God, who thus punished the authors of such a sacrilege.

The window from the west was formerly a piece of workmanship of great beauty: but there is now only the frame to be seen.

The branches of stone, so light and of so complicated a structure, with which the Gothic windows of great cathedrals are usually ornamented, have been completely destroyed. But there are still to be seen, in a small gallery which runs along under this window, and in the exterior frame of the arch, in *Ogee*, which forms the door of entrance to the cathedral, works which, from the effect of the whole, and the completeness of details, may be regarded as *Chefs-d'œuvre* in the art. The best-preserved fragments are the two towers, and the fine window of the east, as well as that part of the choir touching the latter, which is ornamented with two rows of niches, and sculptured mouldings of great perfection. The chamber where the Chapter assembled, forms an octagonal building belonging to the choir: it is much admired by strangers for the beauty of its architecture. A Gothic window occupies the middle of seven faces of the octagon, the eighth communicates by a door with the Cathedral. A column, composed of fasces, rises in the centre of this edifice, and the divergent branches, which issue from the summit, form the arches which support the roof. In this cathedral are also shown the tombs of the family of the Dukes of Gordon.

There are, in the environs of Elgin, some considerable domains, such as Duffus and Gordonstown. The latter estate, at a short distance from the sea, is susceptible of becoming a superb habitation; the house is built after the Italian style, with large apartments, and a very fine stair-case; but it is not furnished, the proprietor never inhabiting it. The garden and environs of the house, which abound with woods, feel the effects of the absence of the master, as they are much neglected; a few repairs would make Gordonstown one of the finest residences in the north of Scotland. Not far from thence, on the banks of the sea, are hills, enclosing numerous and vast caverns, named the Grottoes of Causius. These rocks, of a soft grey free-stone, have been so worn and cut by the waters, that they present, in one place, the appearance of profound grottoes, vaults, and triumphal arches; and in another, isolated towers, and masses of rock, separated from the rest of the hill, and cut into a thousand fantastic forms. The sea rolling its large blue waves at the foot of the rocks, covers with foam the surrounding shore, and adds by its roaring to the deep impression produced by this solitary and wild spot. One of the numerous excavations with which the perpendicular face of the rock is pierced, has its entrance shut by a door; it is a small square chamber, which appears dug by the hand of man; formerly, perhaps, the abode of a hermit: it, at present, serves as a refuge for fishermen surprised by a storm, and for the shepherds who guard the flocks on the summit of these high hills. During the Rebellion of 1745, the Laird of Gordons-

town concealed his horses in this cavern in order to save them from the pillage of the armies.

It now remains for me, before quitting this part of Scotland, to make some general observations on Morayshire.

The county of Moray forms, at this day, only a part of that which was formerly called the province of Moray. This province, besides the county of the same name, still comprises the county of Nairn, a part of those of Inverness and Banff, and in general all the country bounded on the north by the Moray Firth, and the Lake of Beaulie; on the east and on the south by the mountains which rise on the right bank of the Spey, and on the west by those which extend to the western districts of Urquhart, Fort Augustus, and Laggan. Nature has divided the province of Moray into two distinct regions; the flat country which belongs to the Lowlands, (a fertile region, well cultivated, and consequently peopled and flourishing) and the mountains forming part of the Highlands, which, like the rest of that country, are rocky, uncultivated, wild, and always deserted.

In the plain which forms the northern part of the province, are situated the cities of Nairn, Forres, Elgin, Fochabers, and Banff, there are also fine villages and handsome country seats; the inhabitants speak English, or rather a dialect derived from that language, and distinguished from the Scottish under the name of the dialect of Morayshire; their cottages are clean, well constructed, and they perform religious service in the churches, in English. The conquerors, who have at various epochs invaded these fertile regions, have left behind them incontestable traces of their passage, and durable monuments of their residence. The Romans, under their general, Agricola, formed these establishments, the ruins of which still remain. Near to Duffus, and on the banks of the sea, are to be seen the ruins of an ancient Roman fortress, designed by Ptolemy, under the name of *Ptoroton*, and still known by the inhabitants fifty years ago, under that of *Torytown*; it is now named the *Burgh*. In the flat country of Moray are found the remains of fortifications and encampments of the Romans, and on digging the land, the workmen frequently discover the urns of the dead, with medals and arms which belonged to that conquering people.

The Danes who, at several times in the eleventh century, under their chief Helgy, occupied this province, have left fortifications behind them, which are now in ruins; it is to them that is owing the foundation of the capital, Elgin, thus named by them in honour of their chief.

Until the reformation, the plains of Moray were divided among powerful feudal chiefs, rich fraternities, and religious communities,

(some towns possessing franchises of little extent,) a bishop and his chapter residing at Elgin. The latter enjoyed great power and rich benefices in the province, where they possessed vast domains.

The ancient castles of the Barons, and the Gothic ruins of the abbeys and convents, still attest the political state of the province of Moray in the middle ages. Besides the Cathedral of Elgin, and the Priory of Pluscardine, the ruins are still to be seen, in the country, of the Priories of Urquhart, Kinloss, Messindew, (*Maison Dieu*, or House of God,) formerly occupied by the Benedictines, the Bernardins, and the Hospitable Brothers; whilst in the towns of Elgin, Forres, and Inverness, the Dominicans and Franciscans possessed rich convents.

Delivered at the present day from feudal extortions, and the influence of a numerous population of monks, which suppressed the genius of industry and the progress of knowledge among the poor inhabitants of those favourite regions of nature, the labouring classes may now employ all their faculties with advantage, in putting to good account a fertile soil and a singularly mild climate, by a better understood cultivation; they may avail themselves of more extended commercial relations, of an advantageous position on the banks of the sea, at the mouths of many rivers, some of which are navigable, and all abounding with fish.

The district of mountains which occupies the southern part of the province presents quite a different spectacle; there are vast deserts covered with heath, the climate is very cold and wet, and seems to oppose the progress of vegetation; the bottoms of the narrow valleys alone, with which this mountainous region is furrowed, produce some birch, elm, fir, and other trees of the northern country. If the Romans and the Danes have made some temporary incursions into these countries, defended by nature and by a warlike people, at least they were never able to establish themselves, nor even to leave a single monument behind them. Thus the inhabitants of these mountains, without a mixture of foreign race, have long preserved the traits which formerly distinguished their Caledonian ancestors. At this day they still wear the ancient costume of the Highlanders. They speak only Gaelic, and divine service is performed among them in that language. In this vast group of mountains no city is to be found, but here and there are met the castles of the chiefs, surrounded by scattered cottages or huts, which are inhabited by the Highlanders, the ancient vassals of these chiefs.

The principal tribes which live in the mountainous districts of Moray are the Macintoshes, the Frazers, the Chisholms, the Grants, the Gordons, the Cummings, &c. These clans, although at present mixed and united by a thousand kindred ties, formerly composed separate bodies, and lived in the domains of their respective

chiefs. Thus the Gordons inhabited Banffshire, near the place where the fine Castle of the Duke of Gordon stands. The Grants are still concentrated in the hilly part of Morayshire, round the ancient castle of their venerable chief, Sir James Grant. The Cummings, formerly a very powerful clan, but now much dispersed and diminished, inhabited also the mountains of the county of Moray. The Macintoshes, Frazers, and Chisholms, occupy rather the environs of Inverness. These tribes, now on more friendly terms, have often in former times, by their murderous wars, covered the banks of the bays of Moray with blood. Seduced by the the allurements of pillage of a rich and fertile country, the chiefs of these poor tribes were seen at the head of their warlike and savage bands, falling upon the peaceable inhabitants of the plains, carrying away their property, and excusing themselves on the ground of an ancient adage of the Highlanders, that in the fine country of Moray, every man might come and seize his prey.

The changes produced by the abolition of the feudal system, have not yet had so salutary an influence on the Highlanders, as on the inhabitants of the plains; and from the nature even of those districts, it is hardly to be presumed that the mountainous region can ever come up to the flat country in population, and acquire that movement which produces the developement of agricultural, industrious, and commercial resources. On the contrary, the system which many proprietors have adopted of annihilating the small farms, and in order to increase their revenue, replacing with sheep the ancient population of vassals devoted to their families, seems to condemn these wild regions to an eternal sterility. A great emigration was the consequence, and whole districts which formerly supported many families, are now occupied only by flocks of sheep. I feel a pleasure in being able to state here, that all the proprietors of Morayshire have not acted in this manner. I know some who, guided by more generous sentiments, have preferred sacrificing a temporary augmentation of revenue, in order to retain among them their ancient vassals, and choosing to be surrounded by affectionate tenants, rather than display a vain luxury in the capital, or in foreign countries. For this purpose they have provided occupations for those of their tenants, whom the introduction of the new system of large farms deprived of their ancient livelihood. There are some who have, at a great expense, established villages, either on the sea-shore for the fisheries, or in the valleys for manufactories, in order to afford an asylum for the poor people, and prevent them from experiencing destitution and misery in a foreign clime. In these villages the peasant receives his habitation, and the implements necessary for his trade, gratis; it is not till after some years, when his industry prospers, and enables him to make small savings on the produce

of his labour, that the proprietor requires a lease, trifling at first, and increasing progressively. Others encourage the clearing of uncultivated lands by premiums, or in ceding by a long lease to the farmer, all the produce of the soil which he cultivates, without requiring any compensation. There is no doubt but this step, dictated by a spirit of benevolence, will in the end turn to the advantage of the proprietor. That period is perhaps remote, but there must necessarily arrive a time, when the melioration of the domain considered as capital, will amply repay him for the sacrifices which he has made of his income.

CHAPTER VIII.

Cairngorum hills—Dangerous defile of Drumochcur—Blair Athol—Battle of Killycrankie—Accounts of Graham of Claverhouse, and Cameron of Lochiel—Dunkeld—Perth, and Edinburgh.

We continued our route across a deserted country, barren lands, and hills covered with heath, and after entering into the great valley of Strathspey, one of the most considerable enclosed by the chain of mountains, we slept at the little Inn of Pitmain. The valley of Spey is wild, uncultivated, and surrounded by lofty summits, among which we remarked that of Cairngorum, which is the highest. This mountain derives its name from a variety of crystallized quartz, of a fine yellow topaz, which is found there, and which is much esteemed by Scottish lapidaries for the purity of its colour, its fine water, and its brilliancy; there are very considerable pieces in the turf pits which cover the flanks of the mountains. The peasants of the neighbourhood, who know that they can always sell them at very high prices, commence, every spring, to search for *Cairngorum stones*. They choose the spring in preference, because the rains of autumn and winter having detached the fragments of the rock which contains these crystals, they then find them in greater abundance at the foot of the mountain. These rains also in carrying away the tufts of heath and portions of vegetable earth, display to the eye the finest traces of these crystals, scattered here and there in considerable quantities.

We were still penetrating farther into a country of high mountains and frightful deserts; the weather was sharp and cutting. This region, the most elevated of Scotland, is also the coldest; such a quantity of snow falls in winter in these valleys and mountains, that the road becomes impracticable, and the travellers who come from Inverness to Edinburgh, are obliged to follow along the sea shore, and pass by Aberdeen and St. Andrew's, which is greatly out of the way. I have known individuals who already, in the month of November, have experienced the greatest diffi-

culties from the quantity of snow which had fallen in these valleys: they were obliged to leave their coaches in the open field, far from any habitation, and compelled to travel a number of miles on foot, in the midst of thick snow, where no traces of the road were to be seen, in order to gain the nearest village; and it was not until several days had elapsed that they could continue their journey. Similar disasters have been experienced by travellers who have in the bad season crossed the elevated passages of the Alps. Here is also a defile called Drumochcur, which it is necessary to pass. This mountain, which derives its name from that wild district, separates the bason of Spey, (the waters of which flow towards the north, and run into the gulf of Moray;) from that of Tay, which runs towards the south, and empties itself into the Firth of Tay.

We pursued our course through the valley, at the bottom of which runs the Garrie, a torrent which takes its source in the defile of Drumochcur, and falls into the Tay. Before arriving at Blair, we descended for an instant to visit the falls of Bruya, which are seen a little to the left of the great road. The Bruya is a torrent which rushes into the Garrie, and which, a little before its mouth, precipitates itself in cascades from the top of a rock. The successive cataracts are very picturesque, particularly the last, which is the highest of them. An elegant stone bridge of one arch, built above these falls, adds greatly to the beauty of the scene.

We employed some hours in promenading in the superb park of Blair, belonging to the Duke of Athol; nothing can equal the magnificence of the lofty trees of the forests which abound here. Large forests of fir and larch cover the declivity of the mountains; and foaming torrents precipitate with loud noise from the height of the steep glens, between wild mountains.

In the midst of these fine woods, green meadows, and picturesque rocks, one may fancy himself in Switzerland, and think he sees a torrent of the Alps in the handsome cascade of Yorke, which rushes from the top of the rocks, covered every where with groups of trees, and various kinds of indigenous birch.

We were shown, in the park, three rein-deer, sent from Iceland to the Duke of Athol. These fine animals were left at full liberty with the stags and deer, in a particular portion of the domain. It blew a cold and penetrating autumnal wind, and we sought for the rays of the sun to warm us. But the rein-deer, accustomed to the climates of the Pole, avoided those beneficent rays, and lying in the shade, they panted like dogs in the heat of summer. They were neither afraid nor mischievous, for they suffered us to approach them without inquietude, and without using their formidable horns to drive us away.

Scarcely had we quitted the domains of the Duke of Athol,

when the country again presented a wild aspect. The mountains were contracted, and we soon arrived at the narrow defile of Killycrankie; here the rocks on both sides of the river approach so near, that its furious waters, at the bottom of the abyss, have hardly room to escape. The defile of Killycrankie is celebrated in the history of Scotland, by the death of the Viscount of Dundee. This nobleman, at the head of his brave Highlanders, defeated the Parliamentary army commanded by General Mackay, at the battle of Killycrankie, which took place on the 18*th* of *June*, 1689.

The States, or Parliament of Scotland, had declared the forfeiture of King James VII. (James II. of England,) and their intention of placing on the throne William, Prince of Orange, who had been named King of England. Dundee, after opposing with all his power the decision of that assembly, and having become the object of hatred to the Presbyterian party, (then all powerful,) whom he had persecuted in the last reign, retired into the mountains, and engaged several clans to take up arms in defence of their dethroned King. The parliament of Scotland hastened to send general Mackay against him, at the head of a regular army, composed partly of English. Mackay wished to commence operations by the siege of the fortress of Blair Athol, occupied by the Highlanders. But Dundee left him no time, and desiring to profit by the advantage of ground, he marched at the head of his small troop, animated with that courage which supplies the place of numbers, and surprised the army of Mackay, who cleared, with great difficulty, the narrow defile of Killycrankie.

A lively fire, on both sides, was the prelude to the engagement. The Highlanders, impatient to come closer to the enemy, threw away their guns, and seizing their formidable swords, they precipitatedthemselves from the mountains, like a furious torrent, uttering their wild and warlike cries. In seven minutes the enemy's army was broken, dispersed, and put to flight in the greatest disorder; the cavalry of Mackay were thrust down by the impetuous attack of the infantry of Dundee, whilst the small band of Highland cavalry charged and defeated the regiment of infantry which Mackay himself commanded; 1200 killed, and 500 prisoners, were the loss of the parliamentary army, in this short but memorable engagement. The Highlanders did not profit by their decisive victory; Dundee, their brave general, was killed by a random shot, and the consternation which this catastrophe spread among his troops, saved the remains of Mackay's army, and arrested the pursuit of the fugitives. "If Dundee had lived," said that general in rallying his soldiers, "our retreat would not have been so tranquil." But with Dundee ended the resistance of the Highlanders, and the cause of James was lost. The clans, notwithstanding their brilliant victory, were discouraged; they re-

turned to their habitations, and laying aside their arms, profited by the amnesty offered to them by King William.

Two remarkable personages served, at the same time, in the Scottish army at Killycrankie. The first was General Viscount Dundee, who commanded, and whose premature death was grievously mourned by Scotland. That valiant warrior, brought up from his tenderest youth in the profession of arms, had long served on the continent, with the troops of the United Provinces and of some other powers. Returned into the bosom of his country, he signalized himself by his attachment to the principles of the Tories, or Royalists, by his courage and the severity of the discipline which he imposed on his soldiers. He had been employed successfully in dispersing the numerous bodies of the Puritans, or Covenanters, who assembled under arms to perform Divine Service, and who, in their rencounters with the royal troops, were often formidable by their number, their fanaticism, and the military talents of their chiefs.

Graham, of Claverhouse, (for the title of Viscount of Dundee was not yet given to this general,) after having gained many signal victories over the rebels, followed the fortunes of Charles II. and his brother James II., until the moment when the latter unfortunate monarch, in signing his abdication, disbanded his army. It was at this time that, loaded with the favours of the Prince, by whom he was honoured with the title of Viscount in recompense for his services, that he retired into Scotland, with the intention of using all his authority to serve the house of Stuart. That occasion soon presented itself, and he went into the Highlands, where he made an appeal to the clans, who immediately armed and flew to his standard; it is firmly believed that had he survived the victory of Killycrankie, the affairs of the exiled house would have taken a very different turn in Scotland.

In the same army was a warrior not less remarkable for his valour and his attachment to the Stuarts—Sir Evan Cameron of Lochiel. This true model of a Scottish Chief, at the age of 65 years, still fought for the same cause which he had embraced in his youth. Chief of the clan of Cameron, he had, with his brave vassals, constantly resisted the formidable armies of Cromwell; and by frequent successful battles, he had accustomed his tribe to conquer regular bodies of English troops, very superior in number. Distinguished by King Charles, and King James II., he received, at various times, testimonies of their satisfaction. In fine, every other chief of the Highlands had laid down his arms, whilst he still continued fighting at the head of his clan. He was the last to submit to Cromwell, and general Monck used every means in his power to induce him to serve the cause of the Protector, but in vain.

When Dundee had again given the signal of insurrection in the Highlands, Lochiel and his brave Camerons were the first to range themselves under his banners. The success of the battle of Killycrankie was, in a great measure, due to the presence of mind of this valiant chief, and to the profound knowledge which his long experience had given him of the character of the Highlanders.

As soon as we passed the wild defile of Killycrankie, the country presented a more cheerful and open appearance; the mountains disappeared, the valley enlarged, and soon after appeared the charming estate of Fascally, situated at the conflux of the two rivers, Garrie and Tumel; a romantic retreat, at the bottom of a valley covered with verdure, on the banks of waters, and at the foot of hills abounding with woods to the very summit; behind which were seen the steep picturesque rocks of the high mountains. The route continued to present a variety of views, until we arrived at Dunkeld, where we alighted.

Dunkeld is a very little town, possessing nothing remarkable but its position in the middle of a beautiful valley, its ancient cathedral, and the fine park of the Duke of Athol adjoining to it. The valley is large, bounded with mountains of small elevation, and watered by the Tay. The cathedral is, for the most part, in ruins; but the choir is still entire, and serves as a church for the parish of Dunkeld. I shall not stop to describe the superb domain of the Duke of Athol, the most remarkable in Scotland, for its extent, and the beauty of its woods. All the hills are seen from a distance, covered to the summit, with great forests of fir and larch-trees, planted within the last fifty years. The Tay, like a river of the Alps, rolls its rapid floods in the midst of those woody hills, and presents a thousand varied and picturesque scenes from all parts. In contemplating this superb vegetation, artificially obtained from the rocks, (which do not appear to be more fertile than those of the rest of the Highlands,) one cannot help expressing an ardent wish that the proprietors of all mountains would hasten to follow the example of the Duke of Athol, and adorn the barren flanks of their hills with similar forests. What an animated spectacle would those beautiful valleys of the Grampians present, were they thus sheltered; but up to this period they are destitute of that principal trait, which would make them worthy of being compared with the smiling valleys of the Alps.

In the park of Dunkeld is shown the hall of Ossian: it is an elegant pavilion, elevated on a rock, quite near to a foaming cascade; the interior of this pavilion is decorated with mirrors, in which the cascade is reflected under different faces, producing an original and singular effect.

I saw with still more interest, among the fine trees which adorn

this estate, a superb larch, brought from the mountains of Switzerland, little more than half a century ago. It was then the first tree of that kind which had been seen in Scotland; they enclosed it at first in a green-house, and afterwards made a trial of it in the open ground. Finding an agreeable soil, and a mountainous country, this tree was not long in attaining a considerable size. This unexpected success inspired the idea of naturalizing this kind of tree in Scotland, and planting it on the hills, which had, until that period, been barren and naked. All these plantations have succeeded to admiration. In various parts of the Highlands considerable woods are to be seen, which already, by the appearance of the trees, promise speedily to rival those of their native country.

After leaving Dunkeld, we quitted the mountains all at once, in order to enter into the fertile plains of the Lowlands, and arrive at Perth, a city of 24,000 inhabitants, capital of the county of that name, and which, until the year 1437, (an epoch when the seat of government was transferred to Edinburgh) was the capital of Scotland. The fine river Tay runs by the side of the city, and a superb modern bridge of 10 arches is built across it. This bridge is 900 feet in length, and 80 in breadth, constructed with stone, and is remarkable for the beauty of the masonry. The country surrounding Perth is so fertile, the vegetation so fine, the Tay so large and so majestic, that the Romans of the army of Agricola cried out with one voice, "*Ecce Tiber, ecce Campus Martius!*"

I made no stay at Perth, but rapidly continuing my route, I reached Kinross, where I again saw the beautiful Loch Leven: afterwards, having crossed the Firth of Forth, I arrived at Edinburgh, there to pass a second winter.

CHAPTER IX.

The Origin, Language, Music, and Manners of the Lowlanders.

It is well known that Scotland, although of no great extent, is inhabited by two kinds of people, who differ greatly in their origin, their manners, their habits, and their language. From the physical nature of the regions which they inhabit, they are distinguished, even in the country, as Lowlanders, or inhabitants of the plain, and as Highlanders, or inhabitants of the mountains. The latter, inclosed in the deserts of their inaccessible mountains, had, until the middle of the last century, resisted every foreign invasion, and preserved, from time immemorial, the customs, the language, the warlike and invincible nature of their Celtic ancestors. The armies of the Romans, those conquerors of the world, had been forced to arrest their progress at the entrance of the

narrow defiles which compose the gates of the Highlands; and the conquerors of the North, who invaded the low regions of the British Isles, dared not engage in unknown countries, defended alike by nature and by a warlike people. Though vassals of the Kings of Scotland, the Highlanders never completely submitted to their laws, appearing rather to act as their allies than as their subjects. They have hitherto remained inaccessible to all the revolutions which, for so many ages, have desolated the face of Europe. It is not then astonishing, that in this corner of the earth are to be found, separated from all the world, the unaltered remains of those savage tribes which, in the time of the Romans, inhabited the northern countries of Europe.

It is not thus with the inhabitants of the fertile and less elevated regions of the southern and eastern parts of Scotland; invaded successively by the conquerors who have at various epochs subjected the Britons to their laws, they have operated changes in their manners, and in their language, of which the histories of every European people bear evident marks.

I shall not undertake here to unravel the profound obscurity which covers this period: the origin of the two distinct nations which inhabit Scotland, and the ancient relations which existed between them, are subjects of great controversy among the learned.

Some historians are of opinion that a similar nation came from parts of the Continent inhabited by the Celts; that they occupied all the northern regions of Great Britain; and peopled, by successive emigrations, the districts of the north of Ireland. According to them, this people bore the name of *Gael*, which signifies, in the Celtic language, a *stranger*. The Romans designated the country which these people inhabited by the name of *Caledonia*, from the union of the word *Gael* with that of *dun*, which, in Celtic, signifies *a mountain*. The tribes of this wild and wandering nation lived under the government of their particular chiefs, and never thought of uniting under one commander; but when the progress of the Roman legions had carried the terror of their arms into distant regions, the Gaels, or Caledonians, felt the necessity of giving to one supreme chief the command of their various tribes, in order effectually to maintain their independence, and oppose with more force the invasions of the conquerors of the south. Two kingdoms were formed; that of the Gaels, or Caledonians of the west, who lived in the mountains and islands; and that of the Caledonians of the east, who inhabited the plains. The first were called *Scots*, from the word *Scuite*, which, in Gaelic, signifies *a vagabond*, on account of their frequent incursions into the southern districts, occupied by the Romans. The others were

named *Picts*, from the Gaelic word *Picteish*, a thief and a robber,* as they also extended their ravages into the neighbouring territories. These two nations lived together in great harmony, while they had a common enemy to contend against, but no sooner had the Romans abandoned the British Isles, than they engaged in war one against the other. Victory decided in the end for the Scots, who invaded the kingdom of the Picts, exterminated the inhabitants, and effaced, even to the very trace, the name of this people. Proud of their success, they attacked the Britons of the south, still enervated by their long slavery under the yoke of the Romans. The Britons having called the Saxons to their aid, drove back the Scots into their mountains; and having established themselves in the country of the Picts, and in all the plains of Scotland, they were the first origin of the present race of the Lowlanders.

Other antiquaries have thought that the distinction between the two people who inhabit Scotland, arose from time immemorial, and that the Scots were alone of Celtic origin, whilst the Picts were of Teutonic origin, and descended from a colony of Saxons, or Scandinavians. Nothing is more difficult than to decide between these two opinions, for authentic documents on such points of history are entirely wanting. We can only have recourse to vague traditions and conjectures more or less hazardous, relative to those dark periods of time. The sole historical documents on this subject, are those transmitted to us by the Romans, and the earliest Scottish historians, who, on the revival of letters in Europe, endeavoured to trace the history of their country. The first were foreigners, ignorant of the language of the people whom they conquered, and more occupied in civilizing than in studying the manners of those barbarous nations, and ought to be regarded at least as doubtful authorities, on questions of so difficult a nature. The latter were imbued with traditions frequently fictitious and romantic, endeavouring rather to astonish and amuse their readers, than to instruct them; and in writing history, they were more inspired with love for the marvellous, than respect for truth.

However this may be the fact, it appears beyond a doubt that, during many ages, the kings of Scotland have governed, at the

* Tacitus frequently mentions, in his history, the *Picti Britanni*, but this epithet of *Pictus*, signifying paint, in the Latin language, might equally be applied to many nations of Britain, who were in the habit of painting or tatooing their bodies. The nation of the Picts derives its name, as I have said above, from a Celtic or Gaelic term, and not from a Latin expression. The ancient Scottish historians give a considerable catalogue of the Pictish, and most ancient Scottish kings; but the existence of these monarchs, which only reposes on the faith of vague traditions, appears now quite fabulous, and we ought no more to confide in the relations of Fordun, Boëce, &c. than in the numerous portraits of those kings which adorn the long gallery of Holyrood House.

same time, two different nations, as they appear in our day,* bearing, in common, the name of Scots. The one is entirely Celtic, the other of a Teutonic race; the first is preserved pure, and without any foreign mixture, in its almost inaccessible mountains; the second, frequently subjugated by colonies from the continent of Europe, has lost even the remembrance of the ancient Picts who preceded it. Some rude vestiges of fortifications on the summits of the hills, a few words in the language, perhaps some superstitions of the Northern mythology, and some ancient customs among the people,—these are all that remain of the Picts, the first inhabitants of the Lowlands of Scotland.

The long residence of the Roman armies in this country is attested by a multitude of inscriptions and medals, which are every where to be found, as well as by the remains of camps and fortresses. After the Romans we find the Saxons, then the Norwegians, conquer and occupy, at different periods, this country, which the nature of the soil leaves almost without defence. Ancient round towers, of small elevation, are regarded in Scotland as monuments of the Danes. During the course of the long wars between the English and the Scots, the armies of the former frequently penetrated into the heart of the Lowlands. The Gaels, or Highlanders, on their side, never ceased to sally forth in bands, from their mountains, to ravage the flat country, which they regarded as their property, because an ancient tradition informed them that their ancestors had been masters of it.

It is not astonishing that a nation thus composed of a mixture of so many people, exposed to so many changes and vicissitudes, should present such an amalgam of customs and various dialects in its manners and language. Of all that characterizes a people, language is perhaps that which bears the most profound marks, in the events of its history. Scotland presents a striking proof of this truth; it may with good reason be considered as a dialect of the English, with which it has more of connexion than difference. These resemblances are greatly augmented since the union of the two crowns, when the English language began, in Scotland, to be the language of good company; for in former times, the language of the court itself was in the Scottish dialect; a dialect which has only, within these few years, been entirely abandoned to the lower classes of the people. However, as the Scottish idiom contains many words and turnings adapted to the particular usages of the country, for which the English language

* This division of the inhabitants of Scotland into two distinct people, has been observed by the most ancient authors. Jean de Fordun, who wrote in the Fourteenth Century, mentions it in his History of Scotland. It is very astonishing, that a period of five centuries has so little effaced the principal traits which distinguish these two nations.

presents no equivalent, they have preserved it, by clothing it as much as possible with the English tongue; thus they have enriched their language with many happy expressions. It is to these turnings and locutions, not in use in the south, that the English always recognise their brethren of the North.

If this dialect was no more than a simple brogue, in use only among the villagers, perhaps it would not be worth while stopping to consider the degradation of a language which is disfigured in the mouths of the vulgar peasantry: but it is not thus; the Scottish language ought to be regarded as a dialect of the English, and not as an unnatural jargon; it is, besides, a written language, in which there are in existence many works in prose and verse. The ancient historians of Scotland wrote in the language of their country, and many simple and affecting ballads enable us to judge that it is eminently adapted to poetry. The success which has attended the dramatic pastoral of the *Gentle Shepherd*, by Allan Ramsay, and the charming descriptive and lyrical pieces of Burns, the poet, prove that this dialect is equally calculated for the poetical expression of tender sentiments, and the enthusiasm of a warlike muse. These circumstances will serve as an excuse for arresting the attention of our readers, on a subject which appears to merit some interest.

The Danish language is that which, next to the English, most resembles the Scottish; and this will not appear surprising when we think of the frequent invasions of the Danes and the Norwegians in the Lowlands of Scotland, during the 9th and 10th centuries. The word *Firth*, which in Scottish means gulf, or bay, is evidently derived from the *Fiord* of the Norwegians.

The Scots name a perpendicular rock, surrounded by water, *Skerry*; the Danes call it *Skier*; and it is thus that the word *Fell*, which terminates the names of several mountains in Scotland, corresponds with the Norwegian *Field*. We again find the Norwegian termination preserved without alteration in the name of *Goatfield*, which the Lowlanders give to the highest mountain in the island of Arran; and it would be absurd to suppose that *Field* is here the same word as the English one, which signifies a plain, as nothing can be so ridiculous as to give that name to a high and barren mountain.

But, without contenting myself with these isolated examples, I can cite, on this subject, the testimony of the learned Dr. Jameson, a man who best knows the language of his country. He has published a Dictionary of this idiom, as remarkable for its extent, as for the profound etymological researches which it displays. In order to show the resemblance of these two languages in a more striking light, Dr. Jameson has applied himself to the translation of several Danish ballads into ancient Scottish.

He has succeeded in tracing word for word, not only without interverting the order of ideas, but even in preserving the same number of verses. Very frequently the words of the translation have so great a connexion with those of the original, that it might be said the orthography alone is changed. These ballads are taken from a collection named *Kœmpe Visier*, published in Denmark in 1591.

Independently of the French words, with which the English language abounds, (words brought over by the Normans, and which, since the conquest, have passed into Scottish along with the English,) the Scottish language possesses many which have been imported, if I may so express myself, directly from France, without passing through England. The numerous relations which formerly existed between France and Scotland, the residence of auxiliary French troops in the latter country, during the wars of the 16th century, the habit which the Scots had, for a long time, of educating their children in the colleges of France, and of maintaining some troops in the service of that power, all these causes have not a little contributed to the introduction of French expressions in the Scottish language. Many words have preserved their first signification; some are employed in a different sense, but preserving, however, something of their original meaning. Thus from the word *bon*, a term of eulogy, they say *bonnie*, signifying handsome; applying to physical qualities that which designates a quality of the heart. Do they not say, nearly in the same sense in French, *un homme de bonne mine, une bonne tournure?* It is the same with the word *brave*, (in Scotch *braw*,) which means fine, an acceptation taken in some provinces of France, as well as in the Italian language.

One of those traits which characterise the Scottish idiom is, that it admits of diminutives, the same as the Italian; the diphthong *ie*, added to the end of words enfeebles the sense. Thus *bit, bittie, bairn, bairnie, &c.* This faculty of terminating by a vowel, a word ending with one or more consonants, gives a softness to the language. The vowels are much more multiplied than in English, and the Scottish idiom possesses the greater part of the elements which form a soft and sonorous language. But the tedious and drawling accent of the Scots, the harsh and guttural manner in which they pronounce the terms derived from the Gaelic, and all the words in which *gh* are found, take away much of that softness of which the language is susceptible. It would appear that they have only to adapt the English pronunciation to the Scottish, in order to form one of the most harmonious dialects of the northern countries.

The connexion existing between the language of a people and its music, has never, it seems to me, been well determined, and

this interesting subject should merit the attention of philosophers. It appears certain, that among the most ancient people, as well as among the most savage nations, the first essays of music have accompanied those of poetry. The two arts, then, mutually assisted each other, to express sentiments with more energy and truth, and to transmit to posterity heroic actions, and great national recollections.

A tune nearly similar to what we now call *recitative*, appears to have accompanied the declamation of the poems of Homer, when these *chefs-d'œuvre* were repeated in the public places of the cities of Greece, by itinerant singers. The plaintive and wild verses of Ossian are still sung in the mountains of Scotland, in slow, monotonous airs, but rendered expressive, by a strongly pronounced rythm.

The most ancient tunes, perhaps, which exist in the civilized world, were transmitted by tradition, with the poems which accompany them; such as were of old sung by the bards in the castles of the Scottish chiefs. It appears beyond a doubt, that when the poets, inspired by their genius, chanted in reality their verses, the music and the language were so adapted to each other, that the modifications brought by time and circumstances, to the genius of the language, operated corresponding changes in the genius of music. But when the progress of civilization separated these two arts, born and bred together, their history has become very different. Whilst the national language, subjected to all the vicissitudes of politics, is altered and disfigured, mixed with the languages of conquerors, and neighbouring nations, always leaving, however, some traces by which it can be recognized; the national music appears to preserve for a long time, its original character, and time alone makes it undergo some modifications, independent of politics and history. Such appears at least, the comparative march of the two arts. But so little is known of the annals of music, even among the most civilized nations, that it is very possible, in studying this art more thoroughly, and comparing it among different nations, and in different ages, we may again come to find, in the music of a people, as in its language, the traces of its history. I do not pretend, in the remarks which I have made on the Scottish music, to resolve this question entirely, or to satisfy those who make the history of music the object of their learned researches: but, perhaps, some observations on an art, so remarkable for its originality, and so little known hitherto, may engage them to seek in the ancient Scottish airs, some traces of that music of remote ages, now altogether lost in our southern countries.

The Scots are of the very small number of European nations who possess a truly national music, founded on a system differ-

ent from all those which are now in use. We find among them, airs and tunes of a melody *unique* in its kind, which appear to partake less of music, cultivated as an art, than of that primitive music, which is a natural language, in relation to the climate and the physiognomy of the country which gave birth to it. In the most ancient airs of the Lowlands, we again find the Gaelic music entire, that music which is as ancient even as the people of the Highlands, and which, by its wild and plaintive melody, is in harmony with the steep rocks, the howling of the winds, and the monotony of the rolling of floods, or solitary rivers, which it seems to resemble. We cannot doubt, but that the actual music of the Lowlands is primitively derived from the former, since in defiance of the modifications which time has made in the ancient system, we find, even in the most recent compositions, all the distinctive characters of the Gaelic music. But what are the events which have operated these changes?

Have the Danes and the French in any way contributed to the present formation of Scottish music, as they have contributed to that of the language of this people? Has Scotland possessed some individual endowed with a musical genius, who has modified those wild airs by a new melody, more analogous to that of the southern countries, and to our present taste? History does not furnish us with sufficient data to reply to these questions in a manner at all satisfactory.

The anonymous author of a dissertation on Scottish music, has treated this subject with as much detail as the small number of authorities which he has consulted would permit him. He begins by refuting an opinion sufficiently prevalent in Scotland, viz. that David Rizzio, the favourite of Queen Mary, had, if not invented, at least brought the Scottish music to great perfection, in assimilating it as much as possible to that of the Italian. According to him, the music of the Lowlands existed a long time before Rizzio; and this Italian, although known in Europe as a musician, was neither a composer, nor very clever for execution. Besides, the short duration of his residence in Scotland, which was no more than three years, and the kind of life which he led at court, would hardly allow him to find sufficient time to consummate so difficult a work, as that of introducing a kind of music altogether new, or to re-model all the ancient airs after a new system.

The author is led to believe that King James I. of Scotland, has composed the oldest airs which are now sung in the Lowlands. The ancient historians, particularly John Major, speak of this monarch as an able musician, knowing how to play on many instruments, and having composed church music, and popular ballads, which were sung a long time after his death.

James I. lived in the middle of the 15th century; and this prince, a passionate admirer of the fine arts, was endowed with a genius infinitely superior to that of his time; he displeased his warlike and turbulent nobles, by endeavouring to make the arts flourish in his kingdom. It was he who introduced organs and choirs into the cathedrals and abbeys of Scotland. He had himself composed the music for the choirs, and he delighted in playing the harp and the lute.

We shall find in support of the testimony of the Scots, a passage from a celebrated Italian writer, whose judgment, on similar matters, is much more calculated to make an impression than that of the learned of the North. Tassoni, in his *Pensieri Diversi*, says, that at the end of the 16th century, one of the ablest musicians in Italy, the Prince of Venosa, Carlo Gesualdo, admired, and even imitated, the kind of music invented by King James I. of Scotland. Tassoni speaks of this music as *d'una nuova musica lamentevole e mesta, differente de tutte le altre*; a just description, and quite characteristic of the Scottish music.

I shall not follow the author of the dissertation in the conclusions which he draws from that passage, when, not content with taking away from the Italian Rizzio the merit of having brought the Scottish music to perfection, he seeks to prove that it was this same music which, being adopted in Italy, has given to the Italian melody that charm which has raised it above all modern music.

The music in use in the Lowlands, and which is the most generally known under the name of Scottish music, appears to me to derive its origin from the Gaelic music, which we find at this day among the inhabitants of the mountains. The characteristic trait, which distinguishes from all others, this simple but imperfect melody, is the almost continual absence of two of the notes which constitute our gamut, viz. the fourth and the seventh. In the most simple airs of the Gaelic music, those which are generally sung in the Hebrides, and in parts of the country the wildest and the least frequented by strangers, I have observed these two notes constantly wanting. We ought even to believe that the Gaelic gamut is only composed of five notes, which, for the simple note *ut* are, *ut, ré, mi, sol, la.* These five notes, and their octaves, give rise to many different combinations, and serve to form particular airs, which have all a resemblance at bottom. It seems as if they wished to compensate, by the diversity of rythm, the poverty of the music; and, in fact, it has been rendered necessary in order to indicate the time of the measure, to employ signs much more varied than in our music.

I shall now confine myself in remarking, that the absence of two notes, so important in our musical system, renders our rules of ac-

companiment, and fundamental bass, totally inapplicable to Gaelic music, since, without the seventh, or sensible note, we can never, with certitude, determine the tune. But this absence must not be regarded as an accidental omission, for it is too regular; nor as a proof of the ignorance of the Highlanders, and their incapacity to catch our musical rules; the intention of avoiding these notes is too marked, and too constant, not to recognise in it indications of a system of music quite different from ours. A very remarkable fact leads us to regard this musical system as of the highest antiquity. The only people in the world among whom we find any thing at all analogous to the subject before us, are also a people who trace their annals to the most remote antiquity, and who, for many ages, have preserved alike, without any alteration, the manners, usages, and arts of their forefathers.

The music of the Chinese, from what we can judge by the writings of the missionaries, and of Pére Amyot in particular, has precisely the same distinguishing characters as the Scottish music. This coincidence among two people so different in their manners, language, and history, and placed at the two remotest extremities of the ancient world, has appeared to me of too new and striking a nature to be passed over in silence.

The greater part of the Scottish tunes are destined to accompany small poems, or pastoral ballads, in which the music and the words are so much in harmony, that they lend, reciprocally, a new charm. The ablest Scottish poets, Ramsay, Ferguson, and Burns, have composed new ballads on ancient airs, and have admirably taken advantage of the tender and pathetic expression of this music, to describe the pangs of love, the chagrins of absence, and the melancholy sensations experienced by the contemplation of wild and dreary nature.

Haydn, Mozart, Pleyel, and other able musicians, have introduced, with success, many Scottish ballads into their compositions. Haydn himself has not disdained to labour in the accompanying of some of the most melodious of these national airs, and has added to their charms by all the effect which a rich and learned harmony produces.

Notwithstanding the authority of these classic names, I agree that it is almost impossible to catch the spirit of the Scottish music, and to feel all its merits, without having acquired a certain habit of hearing it. We ought to judge, therefore, less from the opinion of strangers; but rather from the wonderful effect produced by these airs, on the Scots themselves. I have already said, that it is sufficient for the orchestra of a theatre to strike up one of the national airs of Scotland, in order to induce the whole audience to rise, and follow in gesture, and often with the voice, the rythm,

sometimes slow, and supported by a romantic plaintiveness; at other times, lively and animated by the airs of the dance.

Frequently one of the most touching of these airs, *Lochaber no more*, has produced effects on the Scots, at a distance from their homes, similar to those of the *Ranz des vaches* on the Swiss peasantry.

I have been told, that some Scotsmen, at the moment when they were embarking for India, where an honourable and lucrative employ awaited them, renounced at once their projects and their hopes, on hearing this ballad sung, which traced anew to their hearts, the charms of that country they were about to quit, perhaps for ever.

It is by similar traits that we can judge of the effect of a kind of music, however removed it may seem from our present ideas of melody and harmony. If we heard those songs of Orpheus, Amphion, and Arion, which produced on the minds of the Greeks so lively an impression that, to express their admiration, they supposed that the most formidable and ferocious animals, that even the very stones were moved by them; were we to judge of these airs after our established rules, and our habitual prejudices, it is probable that we should treat these inspired pieces as barbarous and lamentable music, with which the delicate ears of our connoisseurs would be every moment offended. But what are the effects produced by our music, however learned and regular it may be, compared to those which were produced by the simple and natural airs which softened the most obdurate hearts, calmed the furious passions, restored the broken spirits, and rendered them capable of heroic actions! It would seem that the more music is removed from nature, the more it loses its power over the mass of society. The taste for our learned music is only inherited by those who have made it their peculiar study. Whole classes, even nations, seem deprived of a sentiment for music. Does not this proceed from our having treated it as an art, thereby losing the secret of those grand effects, produced by this most general, and most energetic of all languages? It is easy to perceive these differences among the two kinds of people who compose the Scottish nation. All the Highlanders feel a lively emotion on hearing their wild and imperfect music; whilst the most perfect music of the Lowlands is no longer so popular, nor so generally felt by the people.

The more men advance in civilization, the more the characteristic traits, by which the various nations are distinguished, are effaced, and lost to the view. The institutions and customs, are much alike among all nations, and the concourse of people, in pursuit of objects of common interest, bring in connexion nations the most remote, and the most different in their origin. Such is at present the state of Europe. The inhabitants of the countries

which compose it, formerly so different from each other, having, by the march of time, acquired more constant and intimate relations, aim, every day more and more, at taking a similar physiognomy, at resembling each other in their dress and domestic employments, and modelling themselves after one common type. The tone and manners of good society are the same in England as in France, Italy, and Germany; all great cities resemble each other; the habits, even of the lower class, are nearly the same in the greater part of Europe, or differ only by almost imperceptible shades. It is in order to seize these shades that the traveller ought to apply himself. The more civilization has advanced among the people which he visits, the more difficult will be his task; and it appears to me, that in travelling over Europe, we are more struck, with the uniformity existing, than with the differences which we expect to find among nations.

There are, however, many causes, in the character of nations, the most alike by their exterior physiognomy, which produce real differences. The situation of the country, the configuration of the soil and climate, modify, in various ways, the habits of the people; but the influence of an established Religion, a mode of government, and intellectual culture more or less advanced, act with still greater energy.

Civilization, always on the march, offers also, in its relative progress, terms of comparison between the inhabitants of different states. All nations set out from one point; all tend to the same object; but some have commenced their career long before others; and some remain stationary, whilst others, advancing with rapid strides, have got the start of their neighbours, and often leave them very far behind.

How various are the ways by which nations arrive at the same end! Some apply themselves exclusively in causing the Sciences and Letters to flourish;—others Commerce and the Arts;—some agriculture;—others, in fine, devote themselves, to the art of war, and aspire to the glory of conquests. It is thus that, among nations which ought to resemble each other in every point, we may still find many traits of difference, which are interesting to study.

These reflections naturally flow from the singular facts which present themselves to the observer of the progress of the human mind, in the country known by the name of the Lowlands of Scotland, a region of little extent, which does not contain, in surface, the half of the ancient kingdom of that name. It is there, however, that were developed, that love for Letters and the Sciences, that industry, those fine institutions, which have thrown so great a lustre on the Scottish nation; whilst the wild inhabitants of the Highlands, and the islands belonging to them, still plunged in the

darkness of ignorance, lived under the influence of the feudal system, more favourable to heroism than to learning. In fact, the Highlanders were content, after having laid down their arms, to procure themselves a pitiful subsistence, in painfully labouring on a barren soil; their ambition was bounded by upholding, in the field of battle, the ancient glory of their ancestors, and they willingly left to their brethren of the fertile regions of the south of Scotland, the care of promoting commerce and the arts. The natural situation of the country, the presence of a court often friendly to letters, the existence of many cities endowed with privileges and immunities, and the system of national representation adopted in Scotland, all appeared to favour the Lowlanders; that ardour for mental labour which began to animate them, and which promised one day to produce the most astonishing effects on all parts of their social organization.

Their progress was slow during the latter reigns of the Stuarts. The frequent wars with England, which brought, without ceasing, their enemies into the heart of the kingdom,—the troubles also, and revolutions which followed the religious reformation, continually put fetters on the intellectual improvement of the nation. However, Letters were not without admirers; many Universities were established, commerce flourished, and Scotland, although yet far behind England in respect to institutions and industry, marched on a par with many states of the European Continent. It was reserved to the 18th century to restore peace and tranquillity to Scotland, and to see it, after having lost its independence, and its political individuality, advance with giant strides in the career of civilization, and threaten even to get the start of her ancient rival, who, proud of her former superiority, continued still to load it with outrageous disdain.

Ancient cities, of small extent, and badly constructed, have been aggrandized, in every sense, by the addition of new streets, of elegant architecture, and cleared, by the cares of an active and superintending police, of that filth which had been so disagreeably offensive to strangers. New burghs, villages, and innumerable sea-ports have been erected; canals of communication have been opened, great public roads have been established, bridges and aqueducts have been constructed, and the communications between various parts of the kingdom rendered easy and secure.

The changes which have been made in the country parts, have not been less remarkable, nor less advantageous. Instead of dark and dreary dungeons, formerly inhabited by the Scottish nobility, elegant houses have been constructed. The villages, even the huts of the simple labourers, have an aspect of order and of comfort, which contrasts strongly with the air of misery and want which they formerly presented; an idea of which may be formed

from the existing state of the Highlands. Even the face of the country has taken quite another appearance; the richest and most productive soil has succeeded to regions formerly abandoned to nature, or which yielded but a small return to the negligent hands who cultivated them. The value of land and its revenue has increased in rapid proportion. The proprietors, not content with improving their estates, by forcing the soil to produce a greater quantity of articles of consumption, have endeavoured also to augment the beauty of them; they have covered the little hills and valleys, formerly barren and naked, with fine plantations of trees of various kinds, and have thus restored to their country an ornament which it originally possessed, but which the hands of rapacious conquerors had destroyed.

In the general progress of civilization, commerce and letters have not been in arrear; flourishing manufactories have, in all the cities, and even villages, furnished employment to a rapidly increasing population; and their productions, rivalling in quality and price the English manufactures, have been exported in vast quantities, into all the inhabited parts of the two hemispheres. Fleets of merchant vessels cover the seas. Riches and public credit, the natural results of private opulence, have increased in the same proportion; Banks have been established; private individuals, by their character, and their rank in society, have acquired so great credit, that they have successfully put into circulation in commerce, bank notes, which are received with as much confidence throughout Scotland, as if they were notes of the Bank of England. Those of Sir Wm. Forbes and Co. are at present the most circulated in Scotland. Mercantile transactions, and purchases of all kinds, from the value of one pound and upwards, are made by the aid of these notes, with as much security as can be done any where else with gold and silver.

As to Letters and the Sciences, I have sufficiently enlarged on the system of instruction adopted in the University of Edinburgh, to have occasion here to prove that the Scots have made astonishing progress. It will be sufficient to say that three other Universities concur, with that of Edinburgh, to promote proper studies, and to multiply men of Letters in Scotland. Glasgow, Aberdeen, and St. Andrews, are too famous, as Universities, to render it necessary to cite them more particularly.

Without pretending to recal to recollection the services which Scotland has rendered to the republic of letters, a subject which, alone, would furnish matter for a vast and important work, I shall confine myself to naming Ferguson, Adam Smith, Hume, Blair, Thomson, Robertson, and Dugald Stewart, in the various branches of literature and philosophy; and to add to these names, known and esteemed by all Europe, those of Cullen,

Black, Monro, Simpson, Maclaurin, Hutton, Playfair, Leslie, and Brewster, not less celebrated in the annals of Science. This simple enumeration suffices to show that Scotland has contributed largely to the progress of the human mind.

Independent of this prodigious flight towards every thing that is distinguished, it will appear not less astonishing to find that the Scottish nation has not purchased the benefits of an advanced civilization by the sacrifice of virtue;—at the expense of which so many nations have risen to an eminent degree of prosperity and literary reputation.

Religion is preserved in all its purity,—honoured by all classes of society,—and with it, public and private morals. The excesses of luxury, which if not the cause of the fall of States, are at least one of the most certain symptoms, have not, in Scotland, up to this period, accompanied the rapid increase of riches. There reign still, in the manners and tastes of society, a moderation and a simplicity altogether exemplary; and hospitality, that virtue which seems every where else to be extinguished by the progress of civilization, has lost nothing in Scotland by the changes which have taken place.

Are we to attribute, (as it is generally believed,) this wonderful improvement in Scotland, during the last century, to its definitive union with England in 1707? It does not appear to me that this opinion is founded on incontestable proofs; it can only be supported in this sense,—that the Union procured to the Scots that tranquillity and repose, necessary to cultivate, with advantage, the arts of peace. And yet, without the successive revolutions which have not ceased to agitate the British Isles, while the Stuarts reigned in England, that tranquillity would equally have been attained by the accession of the same sovereign family to the thrones of England and Scotland, from the commencement of the 17th century. The Act of definitive Union, which was passed a century later, does not seem to me to have much augmented the relationship of the two nations, already subjected to the same monarch; since the laws which governed them, their institutions, and even their religion remained unchanged; and if the Act of Union had had any marked influence on the existence of Scotland, that influence would have been rather prejudicial to its advancement, by depriving it of the benefits of an independent political existence, and of a more extended national representation. Besides, the prejudices nourished by the English against their new compatriots, the disdain which they affected for them, tended rather to discourage the Scots, than to excite them to imitate a people more advanced than they were in Letters, Industry, and Commerce. I think then, that we ought principally to seek among the Scots themselves, and in their situation anterior to the revolution, for

the causes which have produced that prosperity and that lustre which distinguish the nation at this day.

We shall find the causes in the very nature of their institutions, in the mode of instruction for a long period established in the Universities, but above all, in the establishment of parochial schools, which preceded only by a few years the epoch of the Union. This institution, which did not exist in England, and which was intended to diffuse the blessings of education among the very lowest classes of the people, has spread a beneficial influence over the whole Scottish nation, and has, more than any thing else, contributed to render this people one of the most enlightened in Europe.

This was one of the *last* acts of the administration of the Parliament of Scotland, abolished by this very Union, for which every Scotsman ought eternally to preserve a profound sentiment of gratitude. In seeing the first body in the state thus signalizing by foundations, as liberal as they were patriotic, *the last moments of their political existence*, who will dare to pretend that the treaty by which this illustrious body was annihilated, was that which opened the gates of civilization to the nation!

It was under the auspices of religion and of the Calvinistic doctrine, so unjustly cried down by the English, that this great and noble institution, of which I have just spoken, has arisen and flourished. To the particular organization of the Presbyterian church, is in a great measure owing the maintenance and the success of parochial schools; a success which would have been, perhaps, less distinguished under the direction of any other clergy than those of the Calvinistic faith.

In fact, the studies required to qualify a minister of religion in the Calvinistic reformed doctrine, are generally more profound and complete than in any other communion, but that circumstance which has certainly contributed to the success of public instruction, would have had much less influence, had not the duty of residing among their flock been imposed on the ministers. In every other place, and above all in England, we see the country parishes administered by inferiors, and curates who have not been brought up to profound studies, and who, satisfied with reading the service in the church, frequently neglect their pastoral duties, the responsibility of which is only indirectly attached to them. It is not so in Scotland, a minister must reside in his parish, and cannot delegate his charge to whomsoever may come in his way; his duty is to watch over the morals of his people, to assist the poor, and above all to direct the parish schools, and to see that the children profit by, and regularly attend to, the instructions of their teachers.

This active superintendence has produced the happiest effects;

the schools have been attended with zeal, and continue to increase and to flourish at this day. Elementary instruction is spread among all classes of the inhabitants, and Scotland has now left England, in this respect, very far behind. The Scots enjoy the very precious advantage, in common with the Dutch, and some of the cantons of Switzerland, of having the entire population educated and enlightened; whilst in all the other states of Europe, without even excepting England and France, the lower classes of the people remain still in the most shameful ignorance; the country people of Scotland, in consequence, are particularly remarked for their love of order and labour, for industry, intelligence, and purity of manners. I might here cite a thousand particular traits in support of what I have advanced, but nothing can be more striking on this point, than the results presented by Colquhoun, in his treatise on the riches of the British Empire. This able economist has calculated, that within the last sixty years, the productions of the Scottish soil have trebled, and that this country, which formerly received its wheat and flour from England, now sends a considerable quantity of grain to the London market.

Scotland, says the same author, which produced at the time of the Union in 1707, a gross revenue of 110,694*l.* sterling, has, in the year 1813, paid into the public Treasury a net revenue of 4,155,599*l.* sterling.

The beneficial influence of education and religion has not been less striking in regard to the morality of the people, than it has been relative to the national riches.

Mr. Hume, in a speech delivered in Parliament on the 12th of July, 1812, presented to the House of Commons official reports of the comparative number of individuals accused of crimes, in the three kingdoms, from 1805 to 1810 inclusive, from which he established the following proportion.

In Ireland the number of accused, to that of the inhabitants, was in the proportion of 1 to 1762. In England 1 to 1988, and in Scotland 1 to 20,239.

The progress which the lower classes in Scotland have made in intellectual culture, has naturally produced a re-action on the superior ranks of society, by developing a laudable emulation. This impulse, strongly seconded by the principle which animates the public establishments of instruction, has turned the attention of the Scots towards a kind of study very different from that which occupies the English. Whilst in the colleges and universities of England, the attention of youth is directed to studies purely literary and classical, (applying themselves solely in forming the taste and the style) in Scotland, on the other hand, the system is to lead the minds of young men to the study of Science and Philosophy,

so as to develope their reason and judgment. The result is, that the English are more acquainted with the beauties of the ancient poets, and the Scots with the useful arts and with mankind.

The difference of the systems is particularly marked in the present day, by the manner in which individuals of both nations, who are intended for the Senate, prepare to act a part in their respective careers. The young Englishmen study, in general, with more care, the illusions of eloquence, and the art of expressing new and brilliant ideas with elegance and force. They render themselves masters of language, and by ably calculating its effects, they aspire to a distinguished rank among the orators of the House. The Scots, on the contrary, more particularly apply themselves to the theory of legislation, administration, and political economy; less brilliant in the debates in the House of Commons, than strong in reasoning and information, they seek the more solid qualities which constitute the statesman and the legislator.*

I have, it appears to me, said enough; and I believe demonstrated, that there exist differences between the English and the Scots, sufficiently striking and essential in every class of society, so as no longer to afford a pretension for saying, that it is to the *union* of the two kingdoms that Scotland is indebted for the progress it has made during the 18th century. For how could England give Institutions which it did not possess, and which it hardly possesses at the present hour?

I am far, however, from denying that England had not an indirect influence on the moral developement of the Scottish nation. The progress of the English in industry, commerce, and the arts, when their neighbours were still much in arrear on these points, excited the emulation of the Scots, and engaged them in many respects to follow their example. This emulation was felt in France, and in Holland, nearly at the same time that it arose in Scotland, and it has produced in those two countries the most salutary effects relative to manufactures, arts, and commerce. These effects have been more marked in Scotland, by reason of the great proximity of the country and the identity of the language. But they would have been equally beneficial without the act of union of 1707; they would have been the necessary consequence of the mere accession of the Scottish monarch to the two thrones united in 1603, an accession which ensured to Scotland a solid

* The English have, within these few years, begun to feel the advantage which the system of study adopted in the Scottish Universities gives to their brethren of the north; thus, we now see frequently, young men destined to public offices, come to finish their education in Edinburgh and Glasgow, after leaving Oxford and Cambridge. In the two latter Universities, they have also lately formed establishments analogous to those of the Scots, in order to accustom the young men to the discussion of questions in law and politics.

peace, by an alliance and confederation with its most ancient and powerful enemies.

Since I have mentioned the Scottish clergy, it is not irrelevant, it seems to me, to give here an idea of the ecclesiastical constitution of Scotland.

The Calvinistic reformed religion, which is established in this country, does not, like the English church, admit of hierarchy among its ministers. Thus every pastor, who has the charge of a parish, is equal in rank and in power. This church recognizes no chief, and its constitution, entirely republican, has devolved to certain bodies that power which, in all other communions, resides in a few individuals. These bodies or consistories are not solely composed of ecclesiastics, but a certain number of laymen are admitted, which are known in Scotland, as in other Calvinistic states, by the name of *elders*.

It will not be astonishing to find in a monarchical country these republican forms, when it is recollected that John Knox, the reformer of Scotland, imbibed all his ideas on the reform of the church at Geneva, and that he modelled entirely his ecclesiastical institutions on those which Calvin had founded in his own country, in conformity with that which was established in some cantons of Switzerland, by Zuinglius, Viret, and Ecolampadius. Calvinism, which arose in republican states, has necessarily retained something of the spirit of the governments which first embraced it; however, the extent of Scotland rendered some changes necessary in institutions which were designed for smaller states; these changes were trifling, and did not deviate from the spirit of the institutions of Calvin.

Each parish is ruled by a pastor, who, with a certain number of elders, compose the Kirk-session. This session is a tribunal of morals, and at the same time an administrative body relative to the funds destined for the relief of the poor. As a tribunal, it can judge offences against morals and piety, and pronounce public and private censures, and even excommunication. The effect of this last sentence is by no means *civil;* that is to say, it carries with it no afflicting or bodily punishment, but has a moral effect, by being addressed to the conscience.

There is an appeal from judgments pronounced by the Kirk-session, to the Presbytery, a council whose jurisdiction is more considerable, as it extends over many parishes: the pastors of this district, and an elder from each parish, compose this tribunal. The Presbyteries can also confer a license for preaching to candidates for the holy ministry, who have not yet received confirmation. But these probationers are not allowed to administer the sacraments. The Presbyteries have the right of judging and censuring

their own members, and they are presided over by a moderator elected from among the ecclesiastical members of their body.

From the presbytery there is an appeal to the provincial Synod, an assembly still more numerous, comprising all the parishes of one or two counties; it is governed, also, by a moderator chosen by their own body. The assembling of provincial Synods is in many respects similar to that of the ancient dioceses of the catholic bishops.

In fine, the general assembly judges, in the last resort, all ecclesiastical matters. This imposing meeting meets annually at Edinburgh, in the month of May, and is composed of as many ministers and elders as there are presbyteries. Each University, and each Royal Burgh of Scotland, has the right of naming an elder to be its representative in this assembly. It is here that all the ecclesiastical laws are made, and the canons which govern the church of Scotland, as well as the regulations relative to public worship. The King names annually a Scottish nobleman to represent his majesty in the assembly, in order that no resolutions may be taken against the laws of the kingdom. The king's commissioner opens and closes the session, and during the time it lasts he enjoys the greatest honours.

One of the functions of the General Assembly is the nomination to vacant livings, and this is not one of the least delicate. By a remnant of the constitution of the catholic church, families who acquired, at the Reformation, the lands and property of the convents, or of the clergy, have preserved the right, which the bishops, or the religious communities at that time enjoyed, that of presenting candidates for the vacant livings. Those who exercise this privilege are called patrons. They are either great proprietors, or municipal councils of cities, or, in fine, the crown; for, besides the goods of the church, which at the time of the Reformation devolved to the king; (on the occasion of different rebellions,) numerous private properties were confiscated and united to the domain of the crown.

It sometimes happens that the minister presented by the patron is disapproved of by the parish, and this circumstance is the subject of very animated discussions on the respective rights of the patron and the community. It belongs to the General Assembly to pronounce on the question, as it also names definitively, the individual to the vacant place.

Many beneficial changes have been produced in the spirit of the General Assembly, since the epoch when, animated by a furious and almost fanatic zeal, it caused to be pulled down and destroyed, all the cathedrals and churches where the Catholic religion had been celebrated, and when it governed the whole of Scotland by that formidable confederation, known in the history

of Charles I. Cromwell, and Charles II. by the name of *the Solemn League and Covenant*, an arbitrary and intolerant power, which exercised the most absolute despotism over the consciences of men.

The Scottish clergy are equally remarkable at this day for their learning, and their exemplary morals, as well as for a wise tolerance which is happily united to the enlightened zeal by which they are animated.

Besides the invaluable advantage which is presented for the instruction of the lower classes, by the pastors being obliged to reside in their parishes, it cannot be doubted that this custom has not had a salutary influence on the clergy themselves. We never see in Scotland those examples, unfortunately too frequent in England, of young clergymen, proprietors of rich and numerous benefices, who, leaving to subordinate ministers the care and the trouble of regulating their parishes, lay aside, even to the very dress, the functions and character of the honourable and sacred vocation which they have embraced. We do not see in Scotland, young men aspire to the Holy Ministry, merely to make financial calculations, and employ a revenue acquired without trouble, by intrigue, or by favour, in order to gratify their passions and their vanity.

If the smallness of their income, which seldom averages more than 150l. sterling a year, and the obligation of living in their parishes, take from the minister the power, and even the desire of taking part in worldly pleasures, these two considerations prevent the young men, of an elevated class in society, from devoting themselves to a profession, which promises neither profit nor advancement.—Is not this an inconvenience?

If persons distinguished by their rank and birth embraced this noble vocation, would it not reflect an eclat and a lustre over the ecclesiastical state, which it has too long been deprived of? Perhaps, also, we should see less frequently, families, considerable for their rank, or their fortune, abandon the Presbyterian form, and attach preference to the English mode of worship. The latter exists in Scotland, but is only tolerated there, for the Calvinistic is the prevailing religion. It is practised by the descendants of those who embraced it under the reigns of Charles I. and II., and who, more than once, shed their blood to defend it against the attacks of the Presbyterians. The ministers of the English form of worship in Scotland, are under the jurisdiction of two or three Bishops, who have merely the title of that office, enjoying no revenues, nor considerable privileges like the English Bishops, nor have they a place in the House of Peers.

There exists only a small number of Catholics in Scotland,

except in the north, and in some parts of the Hebrides.* But the number of Protestant sects is immense; they are all comprised under the general name of dissenters and methodists. Each sect has its chapels, and they are so numerous, that it would be endless to enter into details on this head.

The inhabitants of the Lowlands do not present to the observer any very characteristic physiognomy, nor any of those extraordinary and original customs which can distinguish them from other civilized countries. The few usages truly national, preserved by the country people, and the lower classes in towns, partake much of the ancient manners of the Highlanders. That which is most remarkable among this portion of the Scottish nation, is less the result of certain particular habits, than that general spirit which animates the inhabitants, in their whole mode of life.

The influence of a more solid and general instruction, of an enlightened and profound piety, is felt by the inhabitants of the towns, as well as of the country, among the manufacturing class, as well as the laborious and numerous class of miners, cultivators, and sea-faring people. Families are so numerous in Scotland, that the resources of the country are not sufficient for their support and employment. Thus we find a very considerable number quit their native country in order to seek lucrative employments elsewhere. Warmly attached to their country, they leave it with regret, and with the intention of returning when they have acquired an independent fortune, there to spend the rest of their lives in comfort and happiness. This idea supports them in their labours, and gives them an industry and perseverance, which, joined to their morals, their religious habits, good order, and economy, generally insure them success in their undertakings. England, and its colonies in both hemispheres, above all the East Indies, are the countries where the Scots, who do not find resources for their activity at home, go to acquire a fortune.

The people of the Low, as well as of the High-lands, appear to have been, at a very remote period, divided into clans, of which every individual bore the name of his particular chief. These various clans probably occupied particular districts, and lived under the command of their chiefs, who were themselves vassals of the King of Scotland. Now dispersed, they no longer recognise any chief, nor even a common origin; it is, however, owing to that ancient union under the same chief, that there is so little variety in their proper names. An immense number of

* The Scottish Catholics have lately erected in Edinburgh a handsome church, in the Gothic style, in the eastern part of the New Town.

individuals of all classes bear the same name, without belonging to the same family. It is thus that Peers and Knights of Scotland have names which are to be met with in abundance, even among the lowest classes of people. In order to distinguish them from the crowd, they add the names of their estates, when they are not decorated with some title, or eminent public function. From thence proceeds the question which many strangers put to the Scots,* in speaking of a certain name, for example, that of Douglas, or Scott ; Is he of a good name—is he of a good family? questions which otherwise would appear very ridiculous, as this name, which is found in the family of the Dukes of Buccleugh, belongs also to a crowd of mechanics, farmers, and labourers. It is the same with the Highlanders, being that particular form which feudalism had established in Scotland, when the nobles and their vassals bore the same name, and regarded themselves as descended from one common stock. The great proprietors, and those who approached the nearest by parentage to the chief of the tribe, were naturally the most considerable.

The right of primogeniture, and the perpetual assignment of lands, which still exist in our day, have preserved the same property in the same families for a long period of time.

The abolition of the feudal system in Scotland, which deprived the nobles of their rights of sovereignty, did not strip them of their domains. The estates have remained to the ancient proprietors ; thus, we find but an infinitely small number of country proprietors at the present time ; the country people are all either farmers, or work-people, possessing nothing (of their own,) of the soil which they cultivate. The gentry who have considerable lands, have endeavoured to restrain as much as possible the number of their farmers, and in a fertile country like the Lowlands, this measure has produced the best effects, as much for the economy of handy work, as for the perfection of agriculture. There is no doubt at this day, that in this last point, the western part of Scotland rivals, even advantageously, with England.

The costume of the Lowlanders has nothing which distinguishes them from the English peasants, with the exception of a bonnet of blue cloth, plaited, and a large mantle, or plaid, of a white and grey stripe. They throw it over their shoulders during fine weather, and wrap themselves up with it entirely when it rains. This plaid serves them also as a knapsack. This is

* Thus they say the Scots of Harden, the Scots of Ancrum, &c. The names in the Lowlands are distinguished in general from those of the Highlands by omitting the addition of *Mac* to the commencement of their names. Among the most common names in the Lowlands are those of Scott, Douglas, Ferguson, Robertson, Hamilton, Duncan, &c. &c.

the costume of those groups of shepherds who tend the numerous flocks of sheep on the barren hills, and in the uncultivated lands which separate Scotland from England. Their truly pastoral life is described with a lively and poetical sentiment in their ancient ballads, which they are fond of repeating with their national airs. Their huts are small, but more regularly and solidly built than those of the Highlanders; the former, at least, have chimneys, and they have improved much of late years in their interior arrangement. In general, the landed proprietors have endeavoured lately to increase the comfort of their farmers as much as possible, by encouraging among them a spirit of order, economy, and cleanliness.

In comparing, as we have sometimes done, the character and the spirit of the English with the Scots, we have endeavoured, on many occasions, to assign a just title to the Scots, of a marked superiority in points of the highest importance, over the English. From whence then, will be demanded, proceeds that disdain which the English never cease to testify towards this enlightened, pious, and industrious nation?—and those ridiculous prejudices spread against them throughout England? What are the motives of these prejudices which abound, not only in the conversation of all classes of society, from the frontiers of Scotland to the most southern part of the kingdom, but even in the writings of some of the most distinguished authors in England? Will it be credited, that some slight difference in the customs, the language, the accent, some particular food, the supposed poverty of the Scottish people, are ostensible motives for that disdain with which they would wish to overwhelm a whole nation? Certainly, in a grave and thinking people, these are subjects of animadversion—singularly frivolous.

But these are not the only causes, for although, in the eyes of the English, all that is removed from their manners and customs, is a sure mark of inferiority, and the remains of barbarism, yet the difference in the latter case is too feeble to cause such a general antipathy. There are more solid reasons, which seem better to explain the point. Does it not proceed from the yet unextinguished national hatred, which formerly existed between these two rival nations—so long the bitterest enemies to each other? And is it not agreed—do we not recognise on many occasions, the marks of spite and wounded pride, from seeing these despised Scots arrive, by their talents, perseverance, and activity, at the most eminent places in the various careers which they embrace?

A man who finds himself supplanted in a situation to which he thinks he has a right, by an unknown, whose talents and activity are his only titles, feels his pride offended, and will seldom

fail of accusing his competitor of baseness, and attribute his success to intrigue and favour. Such is the position of many Englishmen who find themselves in the back ground, and it has not been without pain, that they have seen England, India, and the Colonies, filled by a vast number of young Scotsmen, bringing along with them a good education, widely extended information, zeal, natural intelligence, a spirit of order and good conduct ; and who, animated by a laudable ambition, perseveringly seek for the most honourable and lucrative places. Success has, of course, crowned the efforts of these enterprising and enlightened spirits ; and those who, by a misplaced pride, reposed solely on their pretended rights, have cried out "injustice!" accused the Scots with using every means to arrive at their object, and far from endeavouring to struggle with more advantage, by acquiring that learning which had been useful to their rivals, they have found it more convenient to pour out their ill-humour and disdain upon them.

They have also warmly reproached the Scots, with what they term their national pride, or spirit of *Clanship* ; they have blamed them for reciprocally supporting, and seeking to favour each other, in the objects of their pursuits. They find it very improper that Scotsmen, in place and in credit, should profit by their situation, to draw their countrymen around them, and endeavour to procure situations to members of their families or clans. Among the faults with which they reproached Lord Bute, in his administration, they have particularly insisted on the pretended wrong which he did to the nation in placing Scotsmen in the various branches of the Government. "Poor England is lost!" said one of the wits of the time, "but what chagrins me the most is, to see that the Scots have found it." I do not know if they can blame a statesman from wishing to be surrounded with persons who are known to him ; above all, (as was the case here) when he chose them from among a people distinguished for their learning, morality, and good faith. But one thing is certain, that nothing but prejudice can make it criminal in an individual, not to forget in prosperity those with whom he was formerly connected by friendship, family, or country.

There is, in fine, one circumstance which has tended still more to excite unfavourable prejudices in England, against the Scots, —the journey of Dr. Samuel Johnson to the Hebrides. This illustrious lexicographer, more versed in the study of books than of men, had never been out of London, or the surrounding counties. One fine day, at the age of 64 years, he took it into his head to visit Scotland, its mountains, and isles. Such a voyage, fatiguing enough for a man in the flower of age, was then, considering the badness of the roads across the mountains, a very hazardous en-

terprize for an old man, and above all an old man like Dr. Johnson, accustomed to his ease, a lover of repose, society, and good cheer. He sets out, imbued with violent prejudices against the country he was about to visit; for he partook, in the highest degree, of all the opinions in vogue among the English, relative to foreign countries; he sets out without a particle of zeal for discoveries.

All the contrarieties of the journey, and those hindrances, so soon forgotten by those who travel in an interesting country for information, leave a profound impression on his mind. He sees nothing in Scotland worthy of study, neither the genius, the laws, nor the manners of the people; he finds only bad inns, worse roads, poor huts, a barren and unfruitful soil, and, as he himself has said, he only regarded Scotland as "the meanest part of England." Promptly repulsed by an exterior a little wild and rude, he perceived not that the people whom he despised were like those mineral substances, covered with thick crust, which time wears off, displaying the most precious metals. He did not even feel the value of that hospitality, so generous, so delicate, among the Highlanders;—they served him with dishes which he did not like, —he was offended, and repulsed his hosts with disdain. He returned, in fine, more exasperated than ever against Scotland and its inhabitants. His ill-humour breathed in his conversation, and in his books; he never ceased directing his sarcasms against the Scots, he denied them all kind of literary merit, at the very time when the works of HUME, ROBERTSON, and ADAM SMITH circulated in all Europe, and were eagerly received by the learned in every country, and translated into all languages. He did not stop here, his pleasure in wounding the Scots was such, that he went so far as to insult them in his Dictionary of the English language; a work, certainly, in which we should least expect to find puns against a whole nation. He found, however, the way of slipping his favourite topic into his book. He has defined the word *Oats*—"Grain with which the English feed their horses, and with which the Scots feed themselves!" These pleasantries, eagerly received by the English, at a moment when the Scots began to open the road for public employments, circulated from mouth to mouth, and were speedily transmitted from one end of the kingdom to the other.*

---

* It is remarkable, that while Johnson, who knew so ill the character of the Scots, was making them a continual subject for pleasantry; another Englishman, the learned and respectable Pennant, published the voyage which his zeal for Natural History led him to undertake into Scotland, and in which he seized every occasion to render to the Scottish nation the justice due to it; and to infuse into the minds of his readers, those sentiments of benevolence and affection which he experienced from a people, so badly appreciated by his predecessors.

It is a great evil that such prejudices should pass from England to the Continent, and that the nations of Europe should be accustomed to form their opinion of the Scottish people, from the judgment of the English. But it is a still greater evil, that these prejudices should have penetrated, by degrees, into Scotland itself. That there are to be found Scotsmen, dazzled by the splendour and luxury of the metropolis, who prefer the bustling pleasures of London to a more quiet and regular life in their native country, may be easily conceived. But when we see them return to their country, affecting an insulting disdain for the society and the customs of Scotland, and wishing to change the original and peculiar character of their countrymen, into a servile imitation of English manners, it will afford matter of astonishment to all who are acquainted with the difference existing between the two nations.

Happily, however, the national character and spirit are yet too strong in Scotland to fear the influence of these dangerous examples. But if the power of fashion is extended farther, if the Scots, seduced by the vain illusions of elegance and luxury, begin to change the spirit of their institutions,—if, forgetting their national glory, they model their manners on those of strangers, that lustre which shines over it to day, will only serve, the more effectually, to expose to the world the folly and the ignorance of those who caused it to disappear. And then, only, Scotland will be the "*meanest part of England.*"

THE END.